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Task force eyed to help craft federalization regs. **PAGE 3**

Fitial, leaders 'more open' to marine monument plan

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Gov. Benigno Fitial and legislative leaders appear to have softened their opposition to the White House's bid to designate the waters around the CNMI's northern islands as a marine monument and are now "more open" to continuing talks on the plan with White

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Fitial

RELATED NEWS

Cabinet-level talks seen on marine monument.

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Governor, leaders had retracted leaked letter

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

New details have emerged about a strongly worded four-page letter Gov. Benigno Fitial and political leaders on Saipan gave to White House staff during a conference earlier this week on the Bush administration's proposal to establish a marine monument in the CNMI's northern islands,

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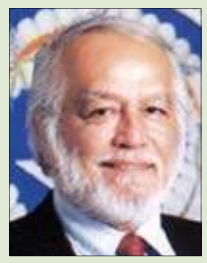

Torres

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Self-service	$4.02
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Self-service	$4.19
Full-service	$4.31
DIESEL	$4.79

Gas prices drop

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Shell and Mobil gas stations on Saipan lowered prices Friday by 15 cents, a move that comes after the global price of crude oil in recent months fell 55 percent since hitting record highs over the summer.

Shell Marianas announced the

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10 DAYS TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to wear an orange shirt anytime this week?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

25 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

War Chest

John McCain and the RNC reported having a combined $84 million to spend before Election Day.

NATION...Page 10

Weak Peso

The peso lost more ground on Thursday, dropping to as low as P49 per dollar.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Name Drop

Matt Damon is honored that "Joe the Plumber" dropped his name in an interview.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

250 vintage ordnance blown up

Police officer and bomb expert Chris Guerrero, second from left, assists members of an ordnance disposal team from the U.S. Navy and Air Force in gathering the 250 unexploded World War II ordnance in a pit in Marpi yesterday. Inset shows thick smoke snaking along the top of trees after the blast.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bomb disposal team composed of U.S. Navy experts, local police, and a private company detonated yesterday some 250 pieces of unexploded World War II-era ordnance in Marpi.

The vintage ordnance—projectiles, bombs, hand grenades and mortar rounds from both the U.S. and Japanese sides—were removed from an explosive storage bunker in Marpi, placed in a pit near the bunker, connected to demolition charges, covered with soil, and then detonated using a remote firing device.

See 250 VINTAGE on Page 4

Local

Panelists: Women need to continue to seek equality

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gender inequality is improving but it continues to be an issue, a panel of highly regarded women from the CNMI and Guam said Thursday night.

"Is gender a moot point?" asked Sen. Maria Pangelinan, one of the panelists. "No, as long as we have the human race made up of males and females, gender will still matter."

The other panelists at The X Chromosome: Gender Equality in the CNMI were: Cinta Kaipat, deputy secretary for the Department of Labor; Kimberlyn King-Hinds, general manager of Tinian Ice and Water Co. and member of the Public Utilities Commission; Laura Manglona, a former educator from Rota; Rebecca Warfield, assistant attorney general for the CNMI, and Judith Won Pat, Guam's Legislative Speaker.

Frances Sablan was the moderator of the event, sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities as part of its We the People Project and organized by Taro Leaf Inc. More than 50 men and women were in attendance.

As a woman, Pangelinan said, she can pull from experiences different than her male counterparts.

"We have a different setup, our experiences are different, our set of eyes are different," she said before the forum began. "Running a house is like running a Legislature."

Society dictates a woman to act a certain way, Kaipat said, but females should not be afraid to stand up for themselves, including seeking equal pay.

"We have not achieved equality," she said. "Absolutely not. Look around you. There is no way we're achieved equality. Ladies, we have along way to go. We need to march along."

When it comes to pay, Warfield said one thing she has learned is that men can count.

"If I'm saving you money, you will pay me so I will not disappear," she said. "As long as you have the ability to make yourself necessary, you can demand to make yourself count."

KRISTI EATON

Laura Manglona speaks at the X Chromosome: Gender Equality in the CNMI forum Thursday night. Sen. Maria Pangelinan, Cinta Kaipat and Frances Sablan are in the background.

Won Pat, who was one of the first women in Guam's Senate, said legislation was passed in Guam requiring an equal number of men and women on boards and commissions.

"But because governors are male, that isn't the case," she added. Out of 25 boards, only eight have equal representation, she said. But females do hold several powerful positions in Guam. A woman leads the Office of Public Auditor, the Attorney General is female and there is a woman federal judge, she added.

Won Pat said growing up she sometimes received conflicting messages from her family about her gender role. Her father often told her education was important, but women are expected to be the homemaker, telling her, "You have to get an education. You have to be able to compete in this world. If something happens to your husband you have to be the bread winner."

It is important that women are not their own worst enemy, Won Pat said.

"When one is elevated, it should be an example, but sometimes there is jealousy," she said.

Kaipan said women should aspire to hold positions that in the past have been dominated by men, like engineers or architects.

"Men think those are just for men," she said. "Women are just as qualified as men to hold those [positions]."

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State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Swearing-in of Student Representative Francine R. Babauta
- c. Roll Call
- d. Adoption of Agenda
- e. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. October 3, 2008 Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
  - iv. Special Education & Early Childhood
  - v. LIA
  - vi. School Reform
  - vii. Private Schools
  - viii. Non-Public School Representative
- c. Commissioner of Education

IV. Old Business
- a. ADI update
- b. Bus conductors (Rota)
- c. THS transformer update

V. New Business
- a. Proclamation of Education Month (November)
- b. Revised PSS Organizational Chart
- c. PSS Functional Chart
- d. School Calendar 2009-2010
- e. THS Transformer Relief Plan
- f. HB 16-169 HD9 & HB 16-169 HD9, SS1 re FY 09 Appropriation
- g. Proposed HJR 16-11 re: $20 Million Bond
- h. GO Bond Interest Income (PL16-10)
- i. CDBG School Repairs
- j. CIP Projects Reprogram $1.2M
- k. Expenditure plan and allocation of federal budget FY'09
- l. Amendment to Consolidated Grant under Title V Part A
- m. School administrators' proposal (on Actingships)
- n. Praxis Requirements Compensation Plan for Teachers in Between Steps
- o. Proposed Settlement Agreement (Kabir matter)
- p. Legal Counsels contracts

VI. Executive Session[2]
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel
  - i. Legal Counsels contract
  - ii. Grievance matter
- c. Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Task force eyed to help craft federalization regs

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With seven months to go before the federal government assumes control of local labor and immigration, lawmakers are mulling the creation of a task force to help craft regulations to implement the federalization law.

The House of Representatives on Thursday adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of an ad hoc legislative task force that will work with other concerned groups in pushing for the CNMI's interests as federal agencies develop the federalization regulations.

The resolution, now bound for a Senate vote, expresses the Legislature's desire "to be an informed participant, in collaboration with concerned public and private entities, in the development of [U.S. Public Law] 110-229 regulations at they pertain to the CNMI." It also requires the Senate president and the House speaker to appoint members to the task force.

According to the resolution, the task force should get organized within five days of the resolution becoming adopted by both houses of the Legislature. Its job will be to conduct public hearings, make official inquiries on federalization, and keep the Legislature informed of any development on the drafting of the regulations.

Private sector organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands formed similar committees even before the federalization effort became law, in a bid to ensure that local employers will continue to have access to needed foreign workers under the new labor and immigration system.

The resolution came even as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reiterated that the time is up for talking with the U.S. government.

"I cannot continue to negotiate when this is already a statute. The only remedy I have is Section 903 [of the Covenant between the United States and the Commonwealth]," Fitial said in a press conference on Thursday.

Section 903 states that any disputes arising under the Covenant could be brought to court.

On Sept. 12, 2008, Fitial filed the lawsuit in the federal court for the District of Columbia in a bid to block the pending federal takeover of local labor and immigration. At issue in the governor's complaint are the labor provisions of the federalization law, which Fitial claims the U.S. Congress does not have the authority to impose upon the Commonwealth. The governor also says that federalization is against the CNMI's Covenant-protected right to self-government.

Fire hits recycling center's pile of scrap materials

Thick smoke brings strong, foul smell

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Thick smoke rises from the pile of burning scrap materials at a recycling center in Puerto Rico, Saipan yesterday morning.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire hit a pile of scrap materials inside the compound of a recycling center in Puerto Rico, Saipan yesterday morning.

No one was reported hurt, but motorists and residents in the area noticed a strong, foul odor coming from the burned scrap materials at the Huang Zheng Corp. Recycling Center.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* that the fire was reported to DPS at 10:35am.

Ogumoro said preliminary report showed that Huang Zheng Corp. employees were cutting down metal sheets when the plastic materials caught fire.

DPS Fire Division dispatched a fire tanker and a fire engine to the scene.

"The fire was located underneath the pile of scrap materials, therefore the junk had to be lifted up and removed in order for the firefighters to flush out the fire with water," Ogumoro said.

The fire was placed under control at noon, she added.

Ogumoro said Division of Environmental Quality personnel also responded to investigate as the fire involved scrap materials.

Ogumoro said she has no information whether a citation was issued against the recycling center for any violations.

When *Saipan Tribune* arrived at the scene at 10:57am, firefighters were still battling the blaze on the pile of scrap materials.

Thick smoke slowed down traffic in the vicinity of Middle Road corner of Puerto Rico Drive near Ambyth Shipping.

Motorists could smell the strong, foul odor coming from the burned scrap materials.

When *Saipan Tribune* went back to the scene past 1pm, there was no smoke anymore at the recycling center. The fire did not spread to the office's area. No one was inside as the recycling center was padlocked from the outside.

Immigration seeks deportation of recidivist

The CNMI government has sought the deportation of a man who has numerous criminal convictions in the CNMI.

The Division of Immigration has filed a deportation case against Lester Serrilo, of Palau.

Serillo was ordered to appear yesterday in the Superior Court to explain why he should not be deported.

Serillo resides in the CNMI pursuant to the Compact of Free Association with the U.S.

Immigration investigator Nicolas T. Reyes stated in court documents that he received information that the respondent has been convicted of two misdemeanor and two felonies—a total of four criminal offenses.

Reyes said Serillo pleaded guilty to assault and battery in a 2000 case and was sentenced to four days.

The respondent was also placed on one-year probation for minor consuming alcohol.

In 2002, Serillo pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property and was given a probation sentence.

In 2004, the respondent pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery. He was sentenced to five years in jail without parole.

In 2005, Serillo pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace and was sentenced to six months. The sentence was concurrent with his conviction in the aggravated assault and battery case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

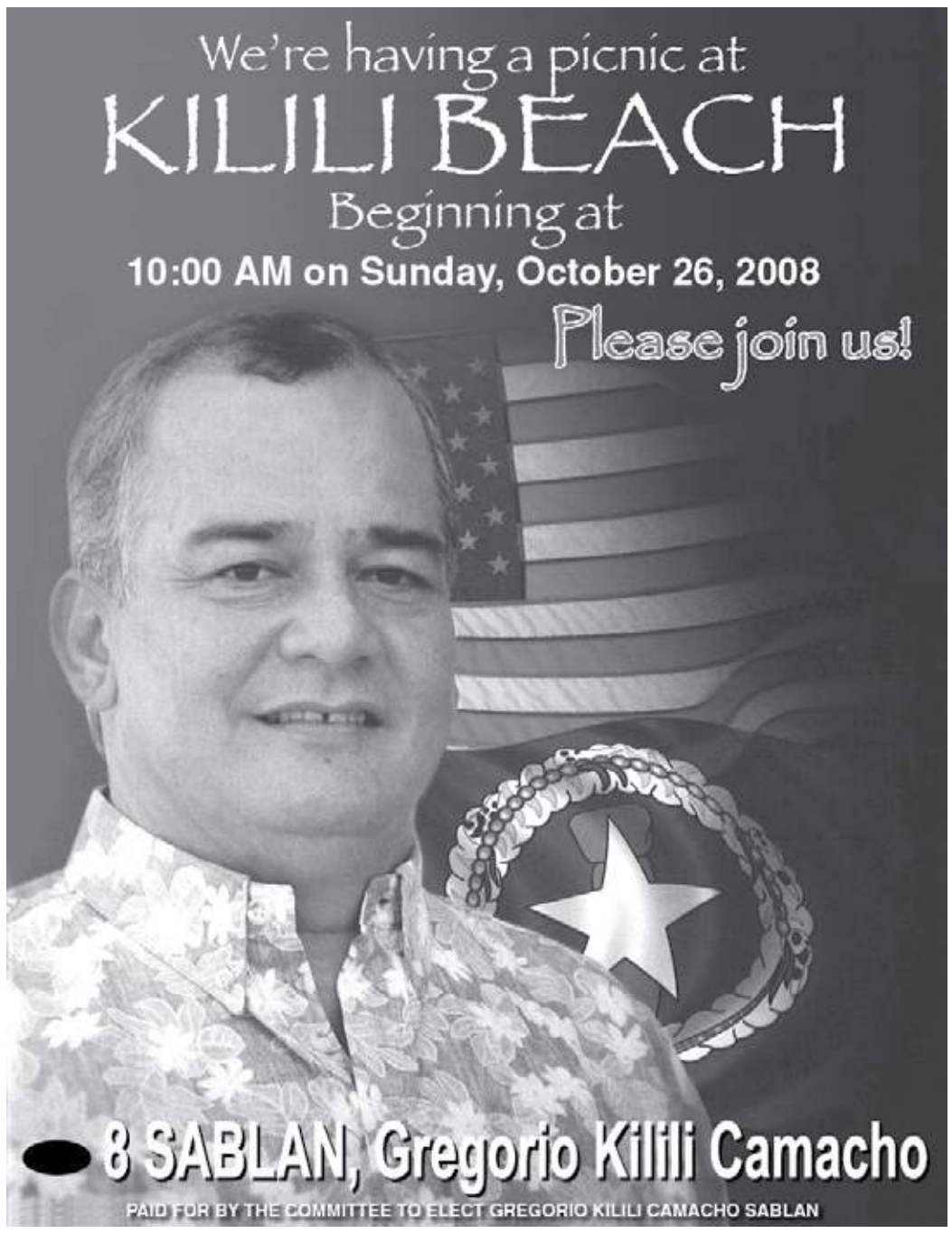
Date : **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**
Time : **3:00 P.M.**
Location : **Tatachog Public Library Annex Building**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Minutes
IV. Chairman's Report
V. Old Business
1. Procurement
VI. New Business
1. Adoption of draft Rules and Regulations and Casino Application
2. Adoption of Personnel Regulation
VII. Miscellaneous
VIII. Adjournment

At anytime during meeting, the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chariman


We're having a picnic at
KILILI BEACH
Beginning at
10:00 AM on Sunday, October 26, 2008
Please join us!
8 SABLAN, Gregorio Kilili Camacho
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

MVA attends East Asia International Travel Fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority had just completed participation in the East Asia International Travel Fair 2008 in Dalian, a key city in North China. The recent resumption of Shanghai Charter flights that began Sept. 29 added new impetus to this marketing effort in mainland China.

MVA, along with the Tinian Dynasty Holiday and Century Tours, attended the 5th East Asia International Travel Fair that was held on Oct. 10 - 12 at the Dalian World Expo Plaza. The event attracted exhibitors from over 20 countries and attendees from all regions of China and elsewhere.

MVA marketing specialist Leng Bai, Century Tours GM Ronald Chan, and Tinian Dynasty Holiday Shanghai Office GM Emily Shi led the delegation.

EAITF is one of the most important exhibition shows in China's exploding tourism market. It targets Northern China but receives guests, agents, and travelers from around China and around the world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The MVA participates in the New Life Style Show in Shanghai held on the grounds of the Formula 1 Sinopec Chinese Grand Prix.

About 20 percent of tourists brought to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by Shanghai charter flights were sent by the travel agents from Dalian and North China in past years. That percentage has increased to 40 percent after the Sept. 29 flight resumption. Aided by Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Century Tours, MVA will further strengthen promotional activity in North China.

MVA has also redoubled efforts in Shanghai by exhibiting at a highly attended and important show recently. The New Life Style Show in Shanghai held on the grounds of the Formula 1 Sinopec Chinese Grand Prix drew huge crowds of upscale potential tourists. Leng Bai said that interest in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota ran very high at the event.

"We continue to market the CNMI as a destination to the outbound Chinese traveler," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Fairs like this allow us to reach the affluent market in China. This clientele is one that we would like to see visit our islands."

The China International Tourism Mart 2008 will be held in November and MVA will be there to extol the virtues of the Mariana Islands. ***(MVA)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

House staff if it can provide major benefits to the Commonwealth, sources on Capital Hill disclosed Friday.

Along with most House and Senate lawmakers, the Fitial administration has long argued against the White House's proposal—which would place the waters around the islands of Maug, Asuncion and Uracus under increased federal protection.

However, political sources report that after conferences on the issue with White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton and his staff earlier this week, Fitial and legislative leaders have become more receptive to the idea of holding further talks about the monument plan because the process could yield an agreement to restore the CNMI's control over "submerged lands," which it lost in a recent federal court decision.

In an interview, the governor's spokesman, Charles Reyes, said Fitial was "pleased" by the last conference he and lawmakers held with Connaughton. Although Fitial remains opposed to the plan, he said, the possibility is there for continued negotiations.

"I don't think that we've changed our position,' said Reyes. "I do think that we're a little more open and we'd be a little more receptive to a more concrete proposal with concrete benefits, especially with regard to submerged lands."

Whether the Fitial administration will change its official position on the monument plan, he added, depends on the White House.

"If they are really able to give us something tangible, I think we may be open to reconsidering but at this point, the answer is still no, pending anything more substantial that would give us something valuable."

Senate President Pete Reyes (I-Saipan), who attended the conferences with White House staff, agreed, saying that when Connaughton said the monument plan could include returning jurisdiction over near-shore ocean resources to the Commonwealth, the tone of the discussions changed.

"That's what convinced us that we need to leave this conversation open because it's a promising situation for us and we can continue the dialogue on this if it has something that is for everyone's benefit," said Reyes. "That's something that I believe is reasonable."

However, Reyes cautioned that the CNMI's political leaders have not yet reached any agreement with the White House.

"We're not agreeing to any type of declaration at this time," he said. "We have not yet seen anything tangible for us to agree on."

Cabinet-level talks seen on marine monument

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cabinet-level talks are expected on the White House's controversial marine monument proposal, as the U.S. military has expressed interest in the islands being eyed for the preservation effort, according to the chief of the Guam military buildup program.

David Bice, director of the Joint Guam Program Office, met with local lawmakers yesterday to brief them on developments on the planned transfer of 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to the Marianas. Although the focus of the relocation is in Guam, the program involves using Tinian as a military training site.

During the meeting, Bice said the U.S. Marines is looking at Pagan and other available areas throughout the CNMI for additional training capacity. Accordingly, the U.S. Department of Defense is concerned about how these plans, as well as U.S. naval operations, might be affected by the proposed designation of the CNMI's northernmost three islands as a marine monument.

Discussions about these concerns began before James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, visited the Commonwealth earlier this week to gather public input on the proposed marine monument, Bice said.

He added, "The Department of Defense has not offered a formal opinion [on the proposed marine monument]. But there will definitely be Cabinet-level discussions on this in the coming weeks."

The Bush administration proposes to preserve 115,000 square miles of ocean encompassing the islands of Maug, Asuncion and Uracus, an effort to affirm the president's so-called "blue legacy" of marine conservation. Federal agencies are now conducting an assessment of the waters at issue—one of three sites now under federal review for the designation—to determine whether they are suitable for a monument.

GOVERNOR

From Page 1

details that reveal they later retracted the letter after the talks and it no longer represents their full position on the issue.

In an interview Friday, Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, said that Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios did distribute the Oct. 22 letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton—leaked to the news media on Thursday—to attendees at a conference on the monument plan this week and that it played a key role in the discussions. The letter expresses strong opposition to the proposal and blasts the Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit organization, for its efforts to rally local support for it.

However, Reyes said that after talks with Connaughton, the leaders' stance on the issue shifted and they retracted the letter, asking White House staff to return it. While the letter still conveys the leaders' position on the monument issue accurately, Reyes said, they are now more open to the possibility of a monument if the plan comes with definite benefits to the CNMI.

"I think the letter is still accurate in terms of our position," said Reyes. "But, after the meetings, the tone of the talks had changed."

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), a long-time opponent of the monument proposal, on Thursday gave copies of the letter to local news media, including the *Saipan Tribune*, during a CNMI House session.

On Friday, Torres, who attended the conference where the leaders gave the letter to White House staff, said he had left prior to the point when the letter was withdrawn because he found Connaughton's efforts to convince the governor and lawmakers to back the proposed monument upsetting. Torres said he was unaware the letter was later retracted.

"I left early, before they shook hands to depart," said Torres, adding it became clear that Connaughton was "standing tight on his position" in favor of establishing the monument during the talks. "The insistence of Chairman Connaughton was kind of disturbing to me, so I kind of got up and walked away."

Meanwhile, Sen. Pete Reyes (I-Saipan) expressed frustration over the leak of the letter, saying officials at the meeting had reached a "consensus" to recall it and not release it publicly.

"I don't really appreciate this," said Reyes. "It's real disturbing that someone in our group would betray that trust. It's so disturbing that it makes me sick to my stomach."

The proposed national marine monument would place a vast swath of ocean water around the islands of Maug Asuncion and Uracus under heightened federal protection. President Bush is expected to issue a decision on whether to move ahead with the plan in the coming months.

250 VINTAGE

From Page 1

The explosive ordnance team members, led by Lt. Erich Gurges of the U.S. Navy, first initiated an explosion to scare the birds in the area, then detonated the ordnance from a safe distance in Suicide Cliff.

Prior to this, police officers and firefighters blocked all roads leading to the detonation site.

U.S Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Second Class Jeff Black said they had to make sure that everyone evacuate the area before demolishing the ordnance.

Black said it is extremely important to detonate these ordnance to keep the public safe.

"It keeps the average residents of Saipan from accidentally detonating one of these in their backyards or any public place," he said.

John Scott, explosive response team trainer and adviser for the Department of Public Safety, said if people find a piece of ordnance they should just note where it is, call 911 and let the trained bomb technicians from DPS come and get it. "Don't try to handle it and definitely keep it away from fire," Scott said.

He said the demolition operation usually runs three to five times a year. "It depends on how much stuff we have accumulated," Scott said.

He said in the coming year they expect to do more detonation operation because of some ongoing projects on the island.

"And of course people continue to report ordnance to police department," Scott said.

He said the detonation time schedule was changed yesterday because of an airline flight schedule at that time.

"Like every other operation, you have to consider a lot of factors—tourist needs, aircraft schedules. We don't blow things up if there is going to be an aircraft nearby," he said.

In yesterday's case, Scott said, an afternoon flight was too close to the original detonation schedule of 1pm.

"So the airport asked us to move it up and we did. We adjusted so there won't be a conflict between flight operation and disposal operation," he said.

GAS

From Page 1

price change in a statement Friday, noting the decline in market costs. Mobil stations also reported changing their prices the same day. The price per gallon of regular, self-served gasoline on Saipan now stands at $4.02 cents. Full service regular gas comes to $4.15 per gallon. Premium gas costs $4.19 per gallon self-served and $4.31 per gallon for full service. Diesel prices come to $4.79 per gallon. The price changes took effect at noon.

The drop in gas prices could be due in part to a rapid decline in the price of oil. After reaching $147.27 per barrel in July, crude oil prices at the close of the New York Mercantile Exchange Friday were at $66.63, down 1.8 percent from earlier in the week.

According to AAA, the CNMI still has far higher gas prices than the average seen on the American mainland. The current national average price for a gallon of regular gas is at $2.82, the exact same price seen one year ago.

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• Exhibition Volleyball Game at 2:00 p.m.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Not out of the woods

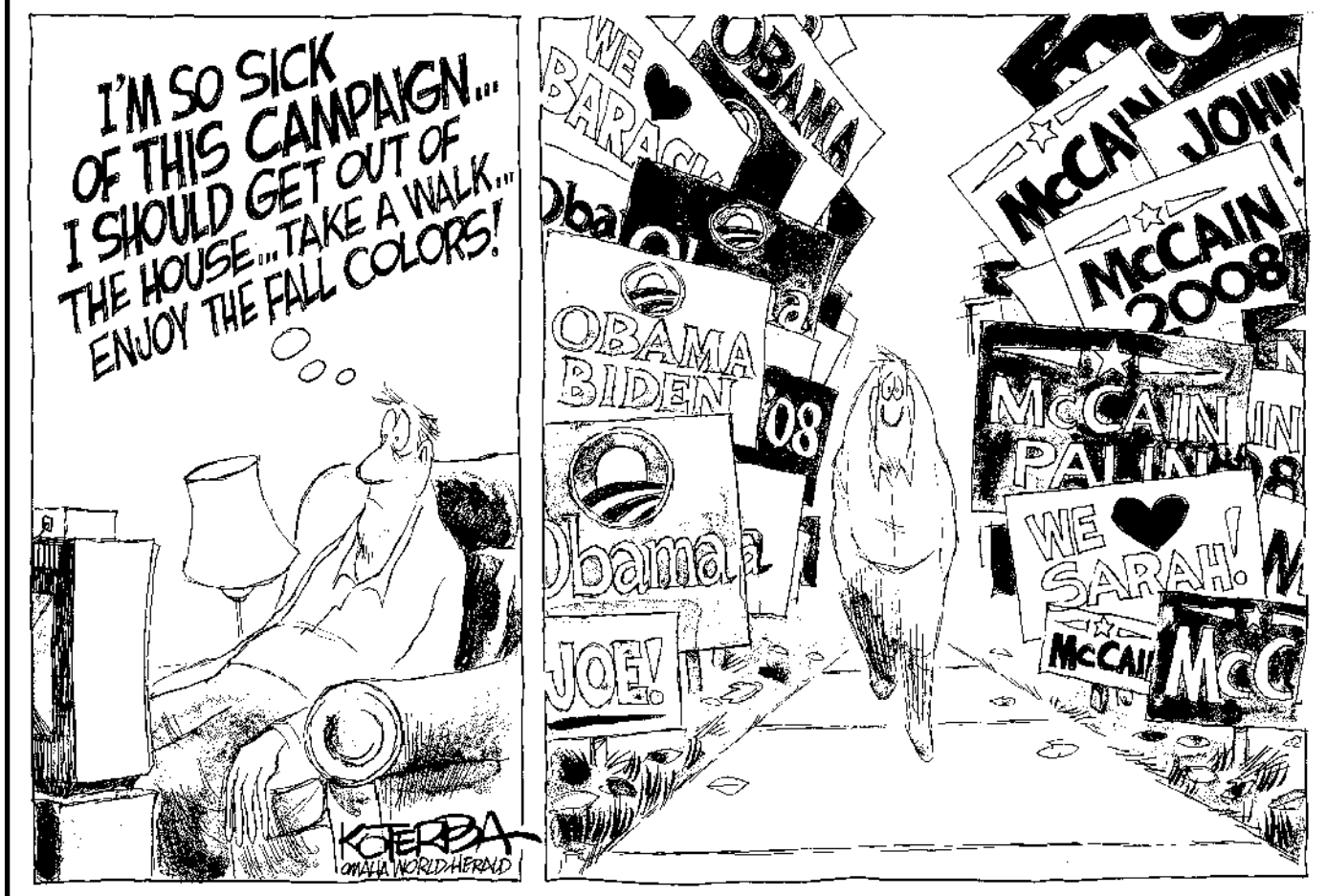
Roughly 64 years ago, 730 delegates from 44 Allied nations met in Bretton Woods, N.H., to devise a post-World War II international monetary and financial order. The goals were to prevent a repeat of the Great Depression and to facilitate reconstruction in Europe. After three weeks, the delegates agreed to fixed, gold-backed exchange rates and outlined institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for Reconstruction and Development (forerunner of the World Bank), and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (forerunner of today's World Trade Organization). The Bretton Woods system has evolved—major currencies float today—but its basic structures remain recognizable. And it still rests on a presumption of U.S. political and economic primacy.

Now, with the global financial system in dangerous disarray, powerful voices in Europe are calling for a new Bretton Woods. Prime Minister Gordon Brown of England wants "very large and very radical changes" in the global economic order. Ditto French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Mr. Brown's rival for leadership in the European Union, who has said that "the 21st-century world cannot be governed with the institutions of the 20th century." Despite the European leaders' not-so-implicit assumption that U.S. free-market policy is at fault for the crisis, President Bush has consented to a Nov. 15 meeting in which leaders from the United States, Europe, Japan and emerging economic powers such as South Korea, China, India and Brazil will participate.

The global financial system does need reforms, and governments could achieve some of them on a coordinated basis over the coming months: agreement not to use insurance to compete for bank deposits; less reliance on ratings agencies to monitor financial risks; a commitment to rethink capital standards for global banks. After the collapse of the Doha round of tariff-reduction talks and the rise of protectionist sentiment that that failure both reflected and encouraged, a strong statement in favor of free trade and investment would also be welcome.

But there are limits to what the upcoming conference might accomplish, even if it were not taking place amid a U.S. presidential transition. The original Bretton Woods was a working meeting of technocrats, not a brief get-together among politicians. Also, Bretton Woods, though officially multilateral, was U.S.-dominated—something that could not be repeated today. Even relatively small fixes will require country-by-country legal and policy changes,

See NOT on next page



Five ways to fix our financial architecture

By HOWARD DAVIES
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is director of the London School of Economics and has served as deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Some urgent reforms need to be made to the architecture of international financial regulation, but talk of a second Bretton Woods conference is misleading. Neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank is a financial regulator in the sense of being a body that sets the rules for and supervises individual institutions. Those important tasks are carried out by less glamorous entities such as the Basel Committee and the International Organization of Securities Commissions. The real issues relate to the way in which these bodies carry out their jobs.

As government leaders grapple with the flaws in those processes, they need to keep five objectives in mind:

First, we need a simpler set of mechanisms that better reflect the shape of today's markets. In a book on regulatory architecture published this year, David Green and I tried to describe the existing structures. They are impenetrably complex. When I became chairman of the United Kingdom's Financial Services Authority in 1997, the authority—Britain's only financial regulator—was a member of about 75 international bodies or committees. By the time I left in 2003, that number had doubled. One problem is that the global financial system is built in three silos: banking, securities and insurance. That structure no longer reflects reality. We know that risks are transferred between these silos and that insurance companies and brokers can pose systemic risk. We need simpler structures, with cross-sectoral coverage.

Second, there is a big problem of legitimacy. The Financial Stability Forum, which sits at the center of the system (without much formal authority), includes the Netherlands and Australia but not China or India. Ten of the 13 members of the Basel Committee, which sets bank capital ratios, are from Europe; there is only one Asian member. The crisis presents a good opportunity to make these bodies more representative. If we do not allow China to participate in making the rules governing finance, how can we expect it to obey them?

Third, the new system needs to move faster. It took the Basel Committee the better part of a decade to design the Basel II standards that banks are just beginning to implement. That's right: These guidelines on leverage and capital are already out of date before coming into service. Regulatory clocks must be speeded up.

Fourth, and most crucial, we need to build a new link between macroeconomic surveillance and regulation. That is where the IMF comes in. Looking back over the past decade, it is easy to find warnings of trouble ahead. The IMF's global financial stability reports included dark alarms about the unwinding of imbalances. The Bank for International Settlements has a better record, regularly pointing to asset price bubbles and systematic risk mispricing. But those warnings did not feed through into the setting of bank capital requirements. Such connections need to be made. We also need a mechanism that can induce banks to hold more capital in boom times, which would help to restrain the expansion and provide a softer cushion if and when prices begin to fall, and take other countercyclical precautions. In other words, if asset prices or risk spreads diverge significantly from their long-term trends, supervisors would impose an across-the-board capital supplement to reflect the potential cost to the banks of a subsequent decline in prices.

Lastly, there is a need for new and sustained political leadership. The Group of Seven concerns itself with regulation only at times of crisis. For example, the Financial Stability Forum was created after the Asian crisis of the late 1990s, and then the finance ministers all but forgot about it until the end of last year. Perhaps a standing subcommittee of the G-7 could be given a permanent role overseeing financial regulation, with the FSF as its arms and legs. The forum is the only place where regulators meet central bankers, finance ministry officials and representatives of the international financial institutions. It brings all the right people together in a room. It should be renamed the Financial Stability Council, given a proper staff and empowered to give instructions to the sectoral regulators. If the G-7 ministers want this to happen, it can.

Of course, better architecture is just the first step. Difficult problems such as how much capital is needed in the system and how to regulate liquidity remain to be solved. We need to grapple with unregulated firms and with the "black holes" of offshore centers. And in some countries, notably the United States, there is a desperate need for change in the domestic financial system.

These issues present enough material for several summits. President Bush will not be there to see how this story plays out, but his successor will surely be spending much time with Nicolas Sarkozy and Gordon Brown.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Cheney's rules: 10 tips for the next vice president

By BARTON GELLMAN
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Gellman, a reporter for The Washington Post*, is the author of* Angler: The Cheney Vice Presidency.

Vice presidential power was a term of mirth in governments past. Not anymore. Vice President Cheney may be the nearest thing we have had to a deputy president. But anyone can learn Cheney's methods. For busy aspirants, I offer an executive summary of the Cheney Rules.

1 Fly Under the Radar.

When candidate George W. Bush asked Cheney to help choose a running mate in 2000, Cheney devised the most intrusive vetting process ever used in a presidential campaign. He insisted on waivers giving him unrestricted access to the medical, IRS and (via the Freedom of Information Act) FBI files of each contender. He asked them to specify in writing whether they were vulnerable to blackmail and, if so, why. But when Cheney became Bush's choice, he did not fill out his own paperwork. The cardiac surgeon who vouched for Cheney's heart now says he never met the man nor reviewed a page of his records. Cheney "went down through everybody's negatives," former Vice President Dan Quayle told me. "And everybody has negatives. ... And nobody really vetted him on what his negatives were."

2 Winning Is Easy When the Other Side Doesn't Know About the Game.

See Rule No. 1. As White House chief of staff to President Gerald Ford, Cheney emphasized letting all the president's advisers be heard in policy debate. "Be an honest broker," he advised a successor. But as vice president, Cheney cared more about winning. Just ask Colin Powell, Christine Todd Whitman, Condoleezza Rice, John Ashcroft and other very senior Bush aides, all of whom learned about historic, Cheney-driven shifts of policy only after the fact. When Rice's lawyer, John Bellinger, complained in 2002 to David Addington, Cheney's hard-driving counsel, that he had not been consulted about the administration's warrantless domestic surveillance program, Addington made no apologies for cutting out the National Security Council staff: "I'm not going to tell you whether there is or isn't such a program. But if there were such a program, you'd better go tell your little friends at the FBI and the CIA to keep their mouths shut."

3 You Can't Be Fired.

Cheney styled himself no more than an adviser to Bush, but he served at his own pleasure, not the president's. The vice president is a "constitutional officer, elected same as he is," Cheney said, referring to Bush. It takes a lot to push a veep overboard. Bush kept Cheney on the ticket in 2004 but did lose some confidence in his No. 2 that year when Cheney's attempt to overrule the Justice Department on domestic espionage nearly brought about a mass exodus of Bush appointees.

4 Everyone Else Can Be.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey and other people you've probably never heard of—for instance, a CIA analyst named Benjamin Miller working on the National Security Council's staff—became obstacles to Cheney and lost their jobs. Most people learned to get out of his way.

5 Silence Is Powerful.

Cheney has a way of spooking people with no more than an expressionless stare. His longtime aide David Gribbin described an encounter with Stephen Hadley, now national security adviser, in a Pentagon hallway in the early 1990s after Hadley had just finished a briefing. "You know, Cheney somehow intimidates me," Hadley told Gribbin. "He's not trying to intimidate me, but when I'm sitting there briefing him, I'm talking a little fast, and my voice is a little high."

6 Shouting Is Powerful, Too.

While reporting for my book "Angler," I did not find a single occasion when the vice president raised his voice. But that does not go for his counsel. One day, a pair of lawyers from the National Security Agency drove to the Justice Department to check on the legality of a program they supervised. Addington showed up uninvited and bellowed at them, "You are not going to see the opinions!" The towering, glowering Addington had no authority over anyone in the room, and the lawyers could have told him to mind his own business. Somehow, that just about never happened to a member of the vice president's staff.

7 Know Thine Enemy.

It took three years for people on the National Security Council staff to learn that their e-mails and policy memos were bcc'd to the vice president's office. One of Rice's advisers discovered the secret arrangement after preparing a speech in which Bush would denounce the abuse of U.S.-held prisoners at Abu Ghraib and demand an explanation from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Cheney slipped the proposal to his old friend Rumsfeld, who mobilized a counterattack before the memo even found its way to Bush. Paul Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld's deputy, called Hadley to complain, and the draft speech never reached the Oval Office. Nor was this type of intelligence-gathering limited to e-mails: Cheney's office sometimes used NSA transcripts to keep track of what policy rivals were saying overseas.

8 Don't Write It Down.

When Cheney's advisers did use e-mail, they omitted subject lines. For printed documents, they made up official-looking stamps that said, "Treated As: SECRET/SCI." Though the stamps had no legal basis, they instructed future archivists to protect routine paperwork—for instance, the talking points for Cheney's press office—as though it were "sensitive compartmented information," a designation used for the innermost secrets of national security.

9 Watch the Boss's Diet.

Cheney often told the White House staff to keep problems off the president's plate as much as possible. If Cheney cared about an issue, he did what he did with barbecue when his wife, Lynne, wasn't looking: He piled his own plate high. When Cabinet officers brought spending complaints to the White House, Cheney, not Bush, chaired the review panel. When Attorney General John Ashcroft objected to military tribunals for alleged terrorists, he found Cheney, not Bush, awaiting him in the Roosevelt Room. A top adviser to the president could always insist on a meeting with Bush, but how many times does anyone want to dip into that well? Ashcroft turned left as he left the meeting, away from the Oval Office and back out onto the street.

10 The President Really Is the Decider.

Just after the 2001 inauguration, Quayle called on Cheney with some friendly advice: Expect to see a lot of state funerals and rubber-chicken fundraisers. Cheney replied that he had "a different understanding with the president." In his productive years, Cheney was the engine of historic change, from the shape of tax cuts to the war in Iraq. But toward the end, Cheney's power has become more like a foot on the brakes, slowing the reversal of his previous success. Seldom now does Cheney have the wheel.

Even amid setbacks, the No. 2 need not despair. The vice presidency comes with its own seal, its own anthem and the power to make everyone stand when you arrive. Everybody takes your calls, and your rank will get you inside just about any room.

Note to Biden and Palin: If you make it to the White House, keep Cheney's West Wing real estate. He declined the perk of a corner office, preferring a spot located exactly between the national security adviser and the chief of staff. Literally and figuratively, he stood astride the corridors of power.

Palin's $150,000 wardrobe malfunction?

By BOOTH MOORE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sarah Palin, small-town hockey mom and everywoman? More like Sarah Palin, pampered princess. Jeanne Cummings at Politico reports that the RNC's monthly financial disclosure reports reveal that the Republican National Committee has spent tens of thousands of dollars on the vice-presidential candidate's wardrobe and accessories since she was nominated, including $150,000 in September alone.

So it seems you can take the girl out of the beauty pageant, but you can't take the beauty pageant out of the girl.

Palin's clothes came from retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Bloomingdales, Neiman Marcus and Barneys New York, and expenses included nearly $5,000 for hair and makeup. Maybe this is actually her one-woman economic stimulus plan. Lord knows the retail sector needs it.

Still, many voters must find it unfathomable for Palin, who has been presented as a woman "like us," to spend that kind of money on clothes in these difficult financial times, to see her speaking so passionately about Joe the Plumber while plumbing campaign coffers for Valentino jackets and pencil skirts. And yet, people are eating it up, tittering on chat sites about Palin's Kawasaki eyeglass frames and her Naughty Monkey red peep-toe pumps.

Palin's spokeswoman is saying this is much ado about nothing, that we should be talking about more important issues. But can you imagine the outcry if it were revealed that Hilary Clinton's rainbow of pantsuits was paid for by campaign contributions? Or if college kids' $50 checks to the Biden/Obama campaign were putting those men in $5,000 custom suits? (Obama's suits are by Hart Schaffner Marx out of Chicago, and they cost in the $1,500 range.)

In Palin's defense, being a woman in the public eye has its own pressures. And it's unlikely she has been stepping off the campaign trail to lunch at Neimans. Instead, she probably is working with a wardrobe stylist who brings her things to try on and choose from. But the issue of clothing and hair expenses has been a land mine for politicians (John Edwards' $400 haircuts), and someone should have been sensitive to that.

You also have to wonder how it feels, as a woman, to have everyone know that you really have been dressed up and trotted out like a beauty queen for the American public to wag tongues at. Caribou Barbie indeed.

Moore is fashion critic for the Times.

NOT

From Page 10

which will take time. For this reason, Mr. Brown's call for transnational curbs on executive compensation for bankers strikes us as more of a political posture than a workable proposal. So does his vision of the IMF as an "early warning system" for financial crises, an old idea with a basic flaw: Even if the warnings prove right, what could the IMF actually do to any country that neglected or refused to heed them?

The European leaders' call for radical reform is understandable, given their predicament and the widespread belief among European publics that the United States and its alleged free-market mania are to blame for that predicament. But the push for a new Bretton Woods overlooks two important points. First, existing Bretton Woods institutions are still useful: The long-dormant IMF, for example, has gone back into action negotiating bailouts for Iceland, Ukraine, Hungary and Pakistan. Unpopular as the IMF's lending conditions may be, they may prove preferable to the strings that Russia or China—Iceland's and Pakistan's alternative sources of cash—might attach. Second, the United States, for all its woes, is not quite finished as the world's preeminent economic power. American financial markets may be plunging, but European markets are doing just as badly, or worse, which is one reason that the dollar has just hit a two-year high against the euro. Until the euro proves able to replace the dollar as a global reserve currency, U.S. leadership—the basic condition of Bretton Woods—will, and should, remain unchanged.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

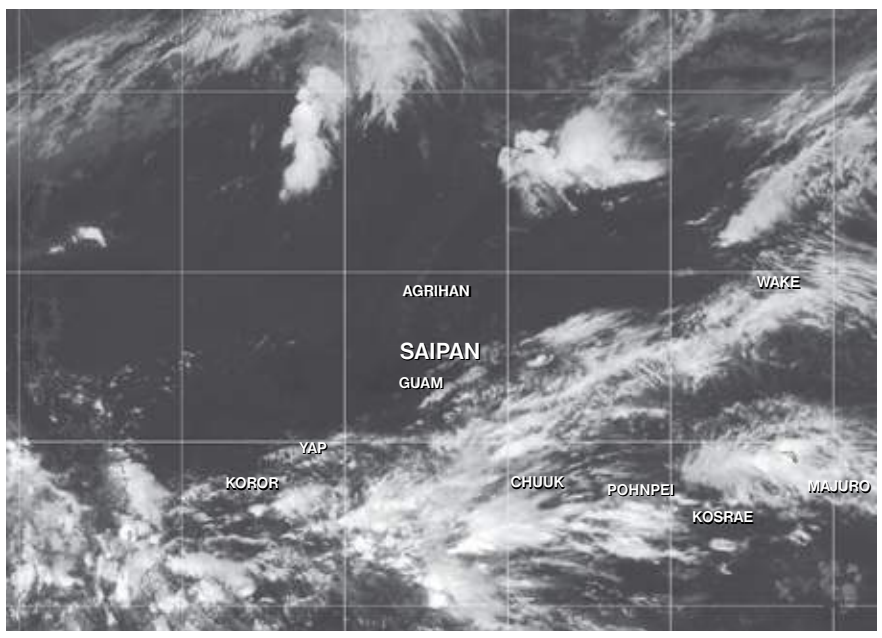
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲64	▼53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲57	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼71
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
New York	Showers	▲63	▼53
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼51
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲54	▼46
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼49
Rome	Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼44
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Washington, DC	Rain	▲63	▼49

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough west of Chuuk extends northeastward from eq148E to 11N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 3N from 144E to 149E and between 3N and 8N from 140E to 150E. Also, scattered showers are occurring south of Chuuk between 3N and 7N from 150E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kwajalein and Marshall Islands between 6N and 10N from 163E to 171E and within 100 miles of a line from 8N172E to 4N180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Koror between the equator and 3N west of 135E. Scattered trade-wind showers are occurring east of Koror between 4N and 7N from 135E to 140E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:32AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:55AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
5:23PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:55PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:12AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:12AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:47AM	3:16PM
Sunday	3:38AM	3:53PM
Monday	4:27AM	4:29PM
Tuesday	5:17AM	5:07PM
Wednesday	6:08AM	5:47PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
Saipan-Rota				**Rota-Saipan**			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Saipan-Guam				**Guam-Saipan**			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita				**Narita-Saipan**			
NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Saipan-Osaka				**Osaka-Saipan**			
NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya				**Nagoya-Saipan**			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Saipan-Seoul				**Seoul-Saipan**			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan				**Busan-Saipan**			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7
Saipan-Shanghai				**Shanghai-Saipan**			
FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6	FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam				**Guam-Rota**			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Guam-Manila				**Manila-Guam**			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 25, 1999

Automatic takeover
Legislation extending federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas will be automatically implemented once Congress and the U.S. President approve the proposal, according to the amendments to the bill drafted by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.The panel, which deals with island issues, scrapped provisions on Senate Bill 1052 that would have provided the island government a legal means to contest in the court a federal takeover of its immigration functions.

Business leaders, OIA still at loggerheads
It was a two-hour breakfast meeting that did not really accomplish anything. Business leaders and Office of Insular Affairs Director Danny Aranza disagreed on the basic issue at hand -- Washington's move to federalize labor and immigration. With the threat of a federal takeover hovering above their heads, the Northern Marianas will not be able to entice new investors and current businesses will hold off expansion plans, said Lynn Knight, vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

October 25, 2000

Local business group lobbies vs. wage hike
Pointing out the persistent instability of the Northern Marianas economy, a newly-established organization comprised mainly of indigenous businessmen has joined local efforts to block the proposed United States-wide adjustment of minimum wage. The CNMI Indigenous Entrepreneurs, Incorporated raised its concerns on the anticipated adverse impacts of the proposed increase in minimum wage to business community in the Northern Marianas.

Legislators off to Japan for investment mission
A group of CNMI officials and lawmakers is flying today to Tokyo to meet with Japanese officials and lawmakers in an effort to boost economic ties and bring more investments into the Northern Marianas. "I hope this trip will produce some economic benefits for the CNMI," House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial told reporters in an interview with reporters yesterday.

October 25, 2001

Jury convicts Delbert Sablan
A US District Court jury yesterday convicted former police investigation chief Delbert R. Sablan with one count of theft concerning federal money. The federal jury held Sablan responsible for pocketing over $8,000 in federal funds meant for undercover drug operations between October 10, 2000 and March 1, 2001. The money reportedly came from a special operations account funded through the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Program.

82% of tour reservations canceled
Over 82 percent of tour packages originally scheduled for October and November had been canceled, painting a gloomier picture for the local tourism industry. This, as Japan Airlines registered a 32 to 40 percent decline in load factor since the September 11 suicide attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

October 25, 2002

Homestead applications pouring
The Marianas Public Lands Authority justified before members of the House Committee on Natural Resources yesterday why the agency suspended the acceptance of homestead applications, citing, for one, the torrential 3,512 applicants on Saipan alone. This, while approximately 300 are said to be the only potential lots.

NMIRF fails to find $600K, HPMR to suspend contract
The NMI Retirement Fund failed to obtain from the CNMI government the $600,000 it needs to pay for a portion of the outstanding obligations it owes the third-party administrator of Group Health and Life Insurance Program. This paves the way for the suspension of services by Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, which means that, beginning today, Group Health members who go to on-island or off-island hospitals and clinics would be asked to pay upfront.

Diego: NDIC report disturbing
Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday called the latest National Drug Intelligence Center's report on the drug problem in the Commonwealth "disturbing" and "another black eye" for the CNMI, although he expressed confidence that local enforcement agencies are capable of addressing the situation. The lieutenant governor said that in his meetings with authorities from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Public Safety, he has always stressed more enforcement as key to stopping the proliferation of drug use on the islands.

Business

Greenspan denies blame for crisis, admits 'flaw'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Badgered by lawmakers, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan denied the nation's economic crisis was his fault on Thursday but conceded the meltdown had revealed a flaw in a lifetime of economic thinking and left him in a "state of shocked disbelief."

Greenspan, who stepped down in 2006, called the banking and housing chaos a "once-in-a-century credit tsunami" that led to a breakdown in how the free market system functions. And he warned that things would get worse before they get better, with rising unemployment and no stabilization in housing prices for "many months."

Gloomy economic reports backed him up. New jobless claims soared to just under 500,000 for last week, and Goldman Sachs, Chrysler and Xerox all said they were cutting thousands more workers. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials bounced erratically all day before finishing up 172 points - after a two-day drop of nearly 750.

The financial crisis even prompted the Republican Greenspan, a staunch believer in free markets, to propose that government consider tougher regulations, including requiring financial firms that package mortgages into securities to keep a portion as a check on quality.

He said other regulatory changes should be considered, too, in such areas as fraud.

Also looking for solutions, another banking regulator told Congress the government was working on a loan-guarantee plan that could help many homeowners escape foreclosure as part of the $700 billion bailout legislation. That plan is being discussed by the Treasury Department and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, who is pushing the idea.

Greenspan's interrogation by the House Oversight Committee was a far cry from his 18 1/2 years as Fed chairman, when he presided over the longest economic boom in the country's history. He was viewed as a free-market icon on Wall Street and held in respect bordering on awe by most members of Congress

Not now. At an often contentious four-hour hearing, Greenspan, former Treasury Secretary John Snow and Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox were repeatedly accused by Democrats on the committee of pursuing an anti-regulation agenda that set the stage for the biggest financial crisis in 70 years.

"The list of regulatory mistakes and misjudgments is long," panel chairman Henry Waxman declared.

Greenspan, 82, acknowledged under questioning that he had made a "mistake" in believing that banks, operating in their own self-interest, would do what was necessary to protect their shareholders and institutions. Greenspan called that "a flaw in the model ... that defines how the world works."

He acknowledged that he had also been wrong in rejecting fears that the five-year housing boom was turning into an unsustainable speculative bubble that could harm the economy when it burst. Greenspan maintained during that period that home prices were unlikely to post a significant decline nationally because housing was a local market.

Greenspan

He said Thursday that he held to that belief because until the current housing slump there had never been such a significant decline in prices nationwide. He said the current financial crisis had "turned out to be much broader than anything that I could have imagined."

Greenspan's much-anticipated appearance before the House panel came as the Senate Banking Committee held its own hearing on what the government is doing now to get out of the mess.

Assistant Treasury Secretary Neel Kashkari, who is overseeing the $700 billion financial rescue effort that passed Congress on Oct. 3, said the administration was not only working to get federal purchases of bank stock started quickly but also the program to mop up troubled mortgage-related assets. He also said the government was working to make sure that directives in the legislation to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure were being addressed.

Kashkari said the plan could include setting standards that banks should follow for reworking mortgages to make them more affordable. He said the administration was considering a recommendation to provide government loan guarantees to cover the reworked mortgages to make the program more attractive to banks.

Nation

McCain, RNC had about $84M as of Oct. 15

AP

A secret service agent, left, monitors as supporters reach out to greet Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., outside after a rally at Robarts Arena during the "Joe the Plumber" Bus Tour in Sarasota, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain and the Republican National Committee reported having a combined $84 million as of last week to spend before Election Day, according to reports filed Thursday with the Federal Election Commission.

McCain, who has accepted public financing for his campaign, is restricted in his spending. As of Oct. 15 he had more than $25 million in hand, but more than $1 in million debts. The RNC, which has been helping his candidacy, had more than $59 million in the bank.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama reports raising $36 million for his campaign during the first two weeks of October.

Obama's fundraising pace showed a marked decline compared with the $150 million he raised in September. That's according to a financial report he filed with the Federal Election Commission late Thursday.

Obama spent more than $105 million from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15. At that pace he would more than double his record spending from September.

He had nearly $66 million in the bank at the end of the two-week period.

John McCain and the Republican National Committee reported having a combined $84 million as of last week to spend before Election Day.

■ ■ ■

At McCain's spending rate of $1.5 million a day, the Arizona senator likely has only $12 million to spend in the next 11 days before the Nov. 4 election.

His Democratic rival, Barack Obama, is not participating in the public finance system and raised a record shattering $150 million in September. Obama had until midnight to file a new report covering financial activity for the first two weeks of October.

If Obama sustains or exceeds his $5 million a day fundraising rate, he could report at least $75 million in new money in his pre-general election filings.

McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, and the RNC came under scrutiny this week after the party committee reported that it had spent about $150,000 on wardrobe and cosmetics for Palin and her family. There was no evidence of additional clothing purchases in the most recent reports.

McCain might not attend his own election-night party

NEW YORK (AP)—Republican John McCain is not going to make his election night remarks in the traditional style—at a podium standing in front of a sea of campaign workers jammed into a hotel ballroom. Oh, the throng of supporters will hold the usual election night party at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix on the evening of Nov. 4.

But the Republican presidential nominee plans to address another group of supporters and a small group of reporters on the hotel lawn; his remarks will be simultaneously piped electronically to the party inside and other reporters in a media filing center, aides

Aides said Thursday that the arrangement was the result of space limitations and that McCain might drop by the election watch party at some other point.

Only a small press "pool"—mostly those who have traveled regularly with the candidate on his campaign plane, plus a few local Arizona reporters and other guests—will be physically present when McCain speaks.

Thomas Patterson, a government professor at Harvard's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, called the arrangement "unusual" but said the campaign may simply be bowing to the reality that the candidate's remarks are geared toward the televised audience rather than those in the hall.

"Addressing your supporters election night is one of those traditions in politics, like where you choose to launch your campaign," Patterson said. "Why wouldn't you want the energy of the crowd? And if you're going to lose, you almost need it even more."

With just 12 days left in the presidential contest, most polls show the Arizona senator trailing Democrat Barack Obama nationally and in most battleground states, although a new AP-GfK poll showed the race tightening a bit in the last few days.

Black turnout is strong in early voting in South

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Blacks are already surging to the polls in parts of the South, according to initial figures from states that encourage early voting— a striking though still preliminary sign of how strongly they will turn out nationwide for Barack Obama in his campaign to become the first African-American president.

There have been predictions all year of a record black turnout for Obama. The first actual figures suggest that wasn't just talk:

■ In North Carolina, blacks make up 31 percent of early voters so far, even though they're just 21 percent of the population and made up only 19 percent of state's overall 2004 vote.

■ Roughly 36 percent of the early voters are black in Georgia, outpacing their 30 percent proportion of the state's population and their 25 percent share of the 2004 vote.

No one but the voters can be sure how they voted. And John McCain's campaign officials note that the Obama camp has put much more effort than they have into early voting. But the numbers are still notable.

Democrats are outvoting the GOP by a margin of 2.5-to-1 in North Carolina, where early voting has been under way for a week. That's roughly double the margin from 2004.

More than 210,000 blacks who are registered as Democrats have cast early ballots in the Tar Heel State—compared with roughly 174,000 registered Republicans overall. Four years ago, the number of GOP early and absentee voters was more than double that of black Democrats.

HIV scare puts Mo. school in uncertain territory

NORMANDY, Mo. (AP)—Students at a suburban St. Louis high school headed to the gymnasium for HIV testing this week after an infected person told health officials as many as 50 teenagers might have been exposed to the virus that causes AIDS.

Officials refused to give details on who the person was or how the students at Normandy High School might have been exposed, but the district is consulting with national AIDS organizations as it tries to minimize the fallout and prevent the infection—and misinformation—from spreading.

"There's potential for stigma for all students regardless of whether they're positive or negative," Normandy School District spokesman Doug Hochstedler said Thursday. "The board wants to be sure all children are fully educated."

A teacher in a neighboring district singled out a girl who dates someone at Normandy High and instructed her to get tested, Hochstedler said. A competing school's football team initially balked at playing Normandy's 8-0 team.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. gay marriage ban backers target businesses

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Leaders of the campaign to outlaw same-sex marriage in California made an offer to businesses that have given money to the state's largest gay-rights group: Give us money or we'll publicly identify you as opponents of traditional unions. Supporters of same-sex marriage called the tactic "an attempt to extort people" and "a bit Mafioso." ProtectMarriage.com, the umbrella group behind a ballot initiative that would overturn this year's California Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage, targeted about 35 companies in the appeal, spokeswoman Sonya Eddings Brown said. She called the letter "a frustrated response" to the intimidation felt by Proposition 8 supporters, who have had their lawn signs stolen and property vandalized in the closing days of the increasingly heated campaign.

Wildfire near LA's Getty museum contained

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A wildfire burned 100 acres of brush and grass near the world-famous Getty art museum before it was doused early Thursday without causing any damage or injuries, fire officials said. Nearby Interstate 405 was closed for about four hours but reopened at 6 a.m., as the morning rush was getting underway. Even so, traffic on freeways and surface streets throughout Los Angeles were clogged, jammed with motorists who had sought ways around the fire. The fire erupted around 12:50 a.m. on a steep urban hillside about two miles from the Getty Center.

NYC mayor wins fight to extend term limits

NEW YORK (AP)—Arguing that New York needs his financial skill to guide it through the crisis on Wall Street, Mayor Michael Bloomberg persuaded City Council to amend the term-limits law Thursday so that the billionaire independent can run for re-election next year. By a 29-22 vote, the council agreed to allow officeholders three consecutive four-year terms. Existing law limits them to two terms, and Bloomberg's second is up at the end of 2009. The vote dramatically alters the city's political landscape. Many would-be mayoral candidates are expected to drop out of the race rather than run against a popular incumbent with unlimited cash to spend. Bloomberg founded the financial news service that bears his name and is worth an estimated $20 billion.

Veteran's family gets back pay with interest

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—It took six decades, but a wrongly convicted World War II veteran's family is finally getting his back pay with interest. Samuel Snow's widow, Margaret, and son, Ray, received a check for $27,580 on Thursday, 64 years after Snow was wrongly convicted of participating in a riot that led to his imprisonment for more than a year. Snow died at age 83 in July, hours after the Army apologized and reversed his dishonorable discharge. Ray Snow compared his father to the Biblical hero Job—an upright man who was punished for no good reason. "A good, upright man who was struck down ... yet he held on," Ray Snow, 56, a school teacher, said after his family received the check. "He held onto to the belief that this could be done."

World

WORLD BRIEFS

American, Russians return from space station

MOSCOW (AP)—Space officials say a Soyuz capsule carrying an American and two Russians back to Earth from the international space station has touched down on target in Kazakhstan Russian Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin says the crew of the TMA-12 felt fine after the landing at 11:37 p.m. EDT on Friday. A NASA TV announcer said Mi-8 helicopters were landing at the site near Arkalyk in north-central Kazakhstan to fetch the crew and the hatch was opened. American Richard Garriott paid some $30 million for a 10-day stay on the space station. He is the son of a NASA astronaut and the first American to follow a parent into space. Cosmonauts Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononenko spent six months at the station.

Iran holding American student in prison

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—An American university student in Iran to visit family and research women's rights has been arrested and held in prison for more than a week, rights group Amnesty International said. Esha Momeni, a student at California State University, Northridge, was driving on a highway in Tehran when she was stopped by authorities who said they were traffic police, the London-based Amnesty said. Iranian officials said Momeni was arrested Oct. 15 for a traffic offense. But Amnesty said in a statement Tuesday she was taken to her family's home where her computer and other materials related to her research on the Iranian women's movement were confiscated. Momeni, who is a member of the California branch of Change for Equality—an Iranian women's rights group—was later taken to Evin prison, the Tehran facility notorious for holding political prisoners, Amnesty said.

China says EU human rights award winner a criminal

BEIJING (AP)—China's government reacted angrily Thursday to the European Parliament's decision to give its top human rights prize to jailed Chinese dissident Hu Jia, with Beijing calling him a criminal and the award interference. The harsh reaction to Hu's winning the Sakharov Prize contrasted with the friendly atmosphere Beijing was trying to project as it welcomed leaders from the European Union and Asia for a summit to tackle the global economic crisis. Adding to Beijing's fury, the European Parliament bucked a Chinese pressure campaign against giving the award to Hu, an outspoken advocate on human rights, the environment and social fairness. Hu is in a Beijing jail serving a 3 1/2-year jail term for sedition. The charge stems from police accusations that he had planned to work with foreigners to disturb the Olympic Games in August. "We express strong dissatisfaction to the decision by the European Parliament to issue such an award to the jailed criminal in China, in disregard of China's repeated representations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

REQUEST FOR DEVELOPER PROPOSALS FOR KOBLERVILLE/CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD PROJECT

The Department of Public Lands is requesting PROPOSALS (RFP) from QUALIFIED FIRMS (Developers) FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING OF LOW COST HOUSING UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE AND CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD LOTS. THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

PHASE 1: 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS in Koblerville AND 39 QUADRUPLEX UNITS ON Capitol Hill.

PHASE 2: 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE CONSISTING OF FIFTY EACH TWO BEDROOMS UNITS AND FIFTY EACH THREE BEDROOM UNITS.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS ON-SITE WATER AND POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, DRAINAGE FACILITIES, ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, AND LANDSCAPING.

Upon completion and acceptance, the Department of Public Lands will work a negotiated payment plan with the winning bidder. The Department of Public Lands will market the homes to potential buyers (qualified homesteaders) and will coordinate and assist with financing for the homeowners through private banks. As each home is completed and homeowner loans are closed, the payment of bank proceeds will be authorized to pay for the construction and transfer of ownership of the residential homes and lots to the buyers.

A PREBID CONFERENCE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT DPL'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT ITS MAIN OFFICE IN DANDAN. Questions from parties CONCERNING THE DETAIL OF THE PROJECT will be entertained AT THAT TIME.

Bid Proposals:

BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 28, 2008. Bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid, executed by the bidder or principal and by a surety company RECOGNIZED AND CERTIFIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. SUCH BOND SHALL be forfeited to the Owner should the bidder fail to execute a contract within ten (10) days after Notice of Award. All bids must be in writing, sealed and marked ("Koblerville Homestead Development"; NO FACSIMILES WILL BE ACCEPTED). Bids are to be submitted as to both phases and as a lump sum total. Bids must state that they will remain open for thirty (30) days.

Contractors or members of their teams shall not communicate with the Department's Selection Committee, employees of the Department or the Secretary of the Department except as stipulated per the requirements of this notice. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in rejection of the Contractor's submittal. The Department of Public Lands reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to re-advertise for bids when it is in the best interest of the Department of Public Lands.

John S. DelRosario, Jr., Secretary

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Peso plunges to 49:$1

AP

Traders transact business during trading at the Philippine Stocks Exchange with the 30-company index losing 97.09 points or 4.64 percent, to close at 1,995.92 in Manila, Thursday Oct.23, 2008. Philippine shares plunged Thursday, tracking steep falls across Asia as investors worry about a global recession.

Recession fears prompt shift in favor of dollar

By ERICK DE LA CRUZ
BUSINESS MIRROR

The peso lost more ground on Thursday, hitting a 19-month low as the US dollar extended its broad rally amid concerns about the faltering global economy, prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene, analysts and traders said.

The peso dropped to as low as P49 per dollar, extending losses for the third-straight day before closing at P48.79, down 5 centavos from Wednesday's close. Trading activity at the spot market remained brisk, with $1.2 billion changing hands compared with $1.4 billion on Wednesday.

With dollars flowing out of the country and likely being repatriated to the US, the

peso may remain under pressure in the next few days, analysts said.

"Almost all currencies weakened versus the dollar due to continuing deleveraging and repatriation back to America," said Marcelo Ayes, senior vice president for treasury at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

"And with a global recession looming, emerging-market currencies are facing a double whammy,"

The selloff on Wall Street on Wednesday amid deepening recession fears sent shockwaves to other markets across the world. The Philippines' key composite index dropped 4.6 percent on Thursday.

Ayes said "the peso is just one of the many victims" of heightened risk aversion and will remain under pressure despite the anticipated pickup in remittances of overseas Filipino workers ahead of the Christmas holidays.

A trader with a local commercial bank said the central bank sold dollars at P49.

"What we are seeing is a slow weakening of the peso. We continue to expect slight easing of that pressure toward the year-end," the trader who requested anonymity said.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank, said with the key P48.50 level having been breached, the peso might settle at P46 or P47 by year's end instead of his previous forecast of 43.

20M to lose jobs over global crisis—ILO

Construction, automotive, tourism, among hard hit

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Due to the global financial crisis, some 20 million people stand to lose their jobs in 2009, breaching for the first time the 200-million mark of jobless people throughout the world, an official of the International Labor Organization said Thursday.

Citing ILO's first estimate on the impact of the crisis on the everyday lives of people, Juan Somavia, ILO director general, said in a statement e-mailed by the ILO Philippine office to media: "We project that world unemployment could increase by 20 million by the end of 2009, surpassing the 200 million mark of global unemployed for the first time. People working in such sectors as construction, automotive, tourism, finance, services, and real estate will be hit hardest first."

Somavia said this projected massive unemployment would mean that the number of working poor living on less than a dollar a day could rise by some 40 million and those living on $2 a day could rise by more than 100 million.

He said the figures might be underestimated if the current economic crisis and looming recession would not be quickly corrected.

The ILO chief thus asked world leaders to focus its attention on rescuing the real economy, not just the financial sector.

The United States and the European Commission have announced bailout packages totaling trillions of dollars.

But Somavia said the world would need an economic rescue plan for working people and the real economy, "with rules and policies that deliver decent work and productive enterprises."

Davide gets 'Spirit of UN' Award

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Ambassador Hilario Davide Jr., Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, this week became the second person to receive the "Spirit of the UN" Award for his exemplary work on promoting spirituality and values in the world body, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations said in a statement Thursday.

Davide, who became top Philippine diplomat to the United Nations in 2007, received the award in ceremonies held at the Dag Hammarksjold Auditorium at the UN Headquarters on October 20.

The first recipient in 2007 was Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury of Bangladesh for his life-long dedication to peace, human rights, and justice.

The UN-based non-government organization Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (CSVGC), which is a committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the UN, conferred the crystal award to Davide for exemplifying the aspects of spirituality and values in his work and daily life.

In his acceptance remarks, Davide said he was accepting the award not only for himself but also for the Philippines, the Philippine Mission to the UN, and many others who have focused attention to global concerns.

The former Philippine Supreme Court chief justice said he considers the award as especially significant as it also symbolized the sacredness of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

"Spirituality is a communion and an abiding relationship with Almighty God who, according to the Book of Wisdom, made all things by His word and established man to govern the world in holiness and justice and render judgment in integrity of heart," the ambassador said.

On the same day that the award was conferred, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo faxed his congratulatory message and joined the Filipino nation in congratulating Davide for this milestone achievement that has made the country and the people proud.

? LABOR FRONT

Part-time casual employment

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Does the Department Labor permit alien workers to engage in part-time casual employment?

A: Public Law 15-108 or the Labor Reformed Law permits part-time casual employment. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the employer under the approved employment contract has no liability for wages for part-time work.

An employer may employ an alien worker part-time for no more than 32 hours a month. A notice of part-time hiring on the standard form provided by Labor must be filed before any work by the foreign national worker begins.

■ ■ ■

Q: What are the grounds for Labor to deny a part-time hiring?

A: The Regulations state that the Labor director may deny a notice of part-time hiring if it appears that the part-time employment is being used to circumvent the requirement of full-time work under an approved employment contract.

The Labor director may also deny if a non-business employer is not financially responsible, or the part-time work is otherwise in violation of Commonwealth law. A denial may be appealed to Labor's Administrative Hearing Office.

An employer who has signed an approved employment contract with an alien worker may not hire that foreign national worker for part-time casual work. An employer may not hire a foreign national worker for part-time casual work for any type of work done by regular employees of the business.

■ ■ ■

Q: What is the penalty for a person who employs an alien worker for part-time work without first notifying Labor?

A: The Regulations state that any person who employs an alien worker for part-time work without first filing a notice with Labor shall be barred from further employment of foreign national workers in any capacity. That employer may also be assessed a fee equal to all of the fees applicable to an approved employment contract. An order of debarment and an assessment of fees, however, can be appealed to Labor's Administrative Hearing Office.

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Puno, PNP chief fail to explain €105,000

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC, TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The "money man" was a no-show, and his superiors were put in the hot seat by the Senate committee on foreign relations that has opened an inquiry into the "contingency fund" of the Philippine National Police delegation to the 77th Interpol General Assembly in Russia.

But despite intense grilling Thursday by committee chair Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and other senators, neither Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno nor PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa could explain the origin of the P9.2 million that then PNP comptroller Eliseo de la Paz brought to St. Petersburg.

What was established was that the money (P2.3 million approved, P6.9 million undeclared) was not withdrawn from any local bank where the PNP has an account. The P6.9 million was converted to 105,000 euros and was actually left with Moscow authorities, contrary to De la Paz's claim the other day that the money had been wired to a special PNP bank account in Manila.

Verzosa, who assumed the top PNP post only last month, was particularly criticized by the senators for his inability to explain where the money had come from and his failure to immediately investigate the matter.

With De la Paz's absence at the inquiry, an angry Santiago ordered Senate Sergeant at Arms Jose Balajadia Jr. to arrest him and bring him to the chamber.

Santiago signed the arrest warrant before the three-hour hearing ended.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, the officer in charge of the chamber, later told reporters that she could not yet sign the warrant because its issuance might require the backing of the majority of the senators.

The warrant is expected to be signed by Senate President Manuel Villar when he arrives from Europe on Friday.

Escaping scrutiny

At the hearing, Santiago said the total cash carried by De la Paz appeared to have been P9.2 million—P2.3 million for travel expenses and P6.9 million for contingencies.

"Too bad he is not here. He could have contradicted this. That is the problem when you want to escape scrutiny by absenting yourself. Then you are deemed to have waived your right to have your day in court. Since he chose to be absent of his own free will, he is therefore deemed by this committee to have waived his right," Santiago said.

De la Paz's lawyer, Noel Malaya, said he and his client had agreed to question the Senate committee's jurisdiction to look into the matter.

Santiago told Malaya that if someone had a pending motion, "you wait for the judge to [decide on it], you do not stay away."

She told Balajadia that De la Paz and his wife had been served subpoenas, "and in view of their deliberate absence here, I command you, arrest him. Now. And bring him here if possible."

Santiago also told Malaya that he could appeal her "ruling" at the Supreme Court, and that under Senate rules he could not participate in the hearing.

She then dismissed him, saying: "That will be all. Would you kindly return to your seat. You have no more personality here."

Santiago's committee also established that the authority and release of the P2.3 million for the eight-man PNP delegation to the Interpol assembly had violated laws covering government travel and budget disbursements.

It is poised to file administrative and criminal charges against the PNP and the Department of Interior and Local Government for approving the P2.3-million fund for the six-day trip of Dela Paz, Deputy Director Generals Emmanuel Carta and Ismael Rafanan, Directors German Doria, Ismael Rafanan, Romeo Ricardo, Silverio Alarcio and Jaime Caringal, and Supt. Elmer Pelobello.

"Under the 2008 budget (the General Appropriations Law), no travel of this nature is allowed except at no cost to the government," Santiago said.

She said a long-standing presidential order prohibited all foreign travel at government expense as part of the administration's "austerity measures."

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

China to export cars to RP in 5 months

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has convinced the second largest car manufacturer in China to start exporting to the country in five months, Malacañang said. Arroyo met with Dongfeng Moro Corp. Deputy Manager Tong Dong Chen in Wuhan City, Hubei province on Thursday, a day before she attends the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing, the Palace said in a statement. "We will make a date on Valentine's Day to receive your first shipment," the statement quoted the President as telling Tong. Arroyo also told Tong, according to the statement, that the company's semi-knocked down (SKD) vehicles could be shipped to the Philippines via the Cagayan Port in the north, which is closer to China. At the same time, Arroyo assured Tong that her government's law prohibiting the sale of second hand imported vehicles would be "fully enforced," the statement said. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Prank bomb threat empties call center

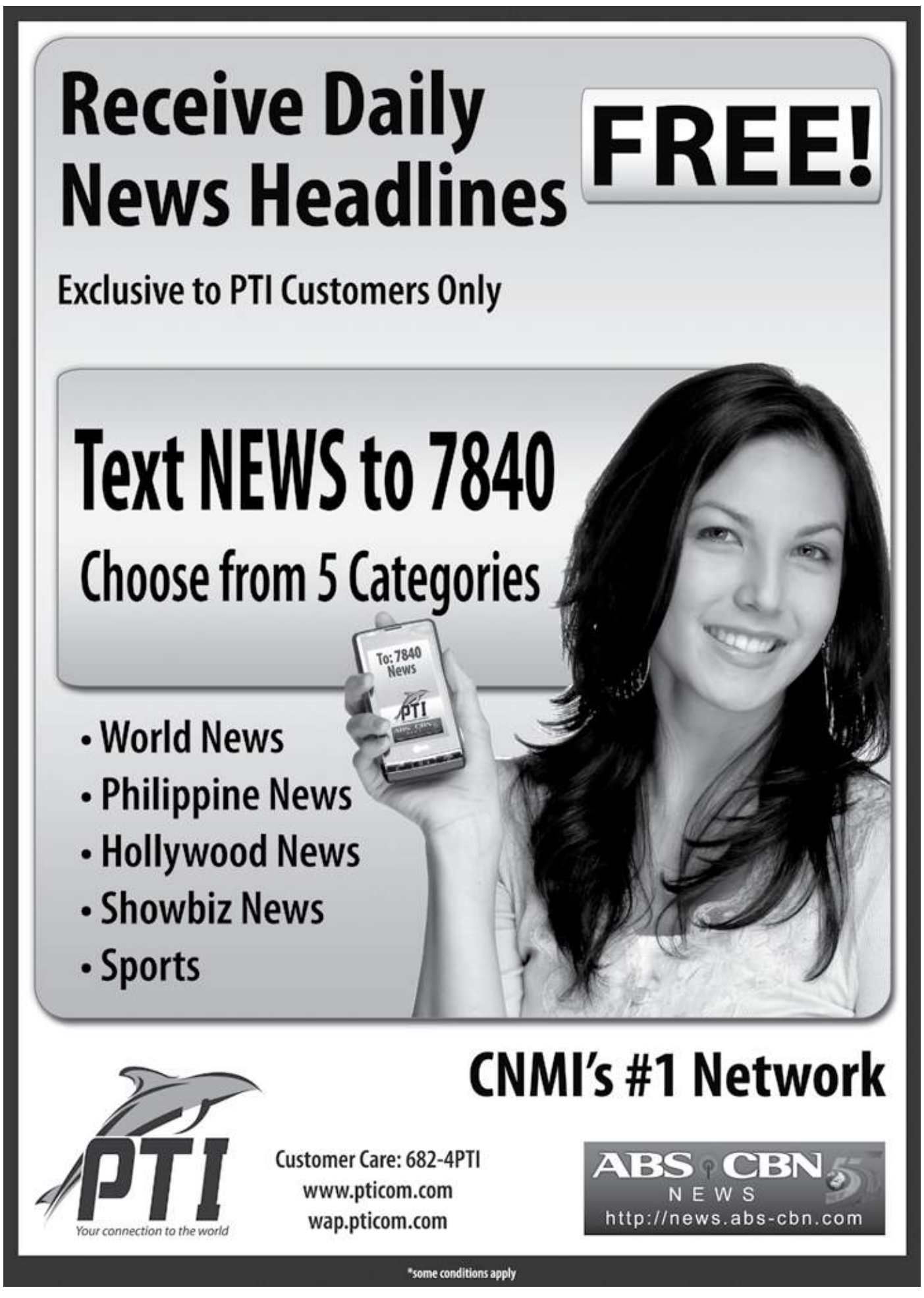
MANILA, Philippines—A prank bomb threat sent through a text message disrupted operations at a call center in Mandaluyong City for three hours late Thursday until early Friday, police said. Hundreds of contact center agents were asked to leave their workstations as a 10-man bomb squad scoured the 22nd floor of the Robinsons Cybergate Tower II on Pioneer Street, Barangka Ilaya. Mandaluyong chief of police, Senior Superintendent Carlos de Sagun, said the prankster sent the message to Corazon Moscaso, site lead manager at Accenture, at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday. The message, in Filipino, said: "A bomb will explode at the locker at 12:30 a.m." Moscaso reported the bomb threat to Angel Calixto, manager of Global Security, who requested a K-9 unit from the Mandaluyong police, De Sagun said. The police immediately deployed a team from the Explosives and Ordnance Unit, supplemented by a separate Special Weapons and Tactics team from the Eastern Police District. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Woman dies from 15th floor fall

MANILA, Philippines—An employee of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. died Thursday after falling from the 15th floor of the company building in the Makati central business district. Makati police chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz identified the victim as Dalisay Gatab, 39, project control analyst of PLDT's operations engineering project management group. The victim allegedly fell from the 15th floor of the Ramon Cojuangco building on Ayala Avenue at about 12:15 p.m., Cruz said. The police officer said initial information gathered by scene of the crime operatives of the Makati police tended to confirm a suicide angle. One of Gatab's coworkers told police she saw a woman jump from an open window in the ladies' rest room on the 15th floor, the police chief said. "The witness later discovered it was Gatab when she saw the body lying on the pavement," he added. Gatab could have suffered from internal injuries that caused her death, Cruz said. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Marcos couple cleared of drug possession

MANILA, Philippines—A Quezon City court acquitted Ferdinand Marcos and his wife of drug possession charges resulting from an alleged buy-bust operation in 2003 in their home. Judge Tita Marilyn Villordon of Regional Trial Court Branch 224 ruled Tuesday that the prosecution was unable to prove the guilt of the accused, a construction worker and namesake of the late strongman. In her decision, the judge pointed out that the arresting police officers were not able to present a pre-operation report to prove they planned the buy-bust operation. Marcos, 42, and his wife Beth, 48, were charged in January 2003 for allegedly possessing .03 grams each of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu during a raid of their home. ***(INQUIRER.net)***



AMID GLOBAL ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

Directing remittances for dev't still possible

MANILA—In today's US-generated financial slowdown and rising inflation rates within countries, overseas migrants' remittances going to countries like Mexico, India and the Philippines are decreasing either on a running grand total or on a monthly total basis.

But as such trends are coming to the fore even when the global economic crisis hasn't reached its peak yet, is it still likely to direct billion-dollar remittances to socio-economic development needs of migrants' origin countries?

An international development agency and some partner global and local networks of microfinance institutions and nonprofits for overseas workers think so. Even some economists studying international migration agree also.

And it is about trying to be first in the race tracks to maximize an estimated US$250 billion resource from some 190 million people living outside of their countries of birth.

Luring remittances for development is the subject of an international conference this Oct. 24 to 25 at the Asian Institute of Management.

One remittances-for-development formula, if international conference organizers such as the Netherlands-headquartered Oxfam Novib, the International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (Inafi)-Philippines office, and the Philippine Consortium on Migration and Development (Philcomdev) are to be asked, is microfinance—a financial service geared to small borrowers and micro-entrepreneurs that's making waves worldwide as a poverty alleviation tool.

Microfinance offers unbanked populations, which include families receiving remittances from abroad, opportunities to access financial services and other possible services such as business advice, writes remittances expert Manuel Orozco in a recent paper on remittances in Moldova.

The conference, which will carry the theme "Leveraging Migrants' Remittances for Development: Practices, Lessons Learned, and Trends," conference organizers will highlight the various contributions of overseas migrants and their organizations in utilizing remittances for development.

And directing remittances to microfinance, Oxfam Novib's Leila Rispens-Noel says, is a strategic means to make remittances work beyond family consumption.

Overseas migrants' remittances going to countries like Mexico, India and the Philippines are decreasing either on a running grand total or on a monthly total basis.

There have been examples in various parts of the world, says the Filipina-Dutch advocate of international migration and development for Oxfam Novib. Filipino economist Alvin Ang even agrees that now it is the time for for-profit and nonprofit service providers to maximize remittances for development, especially because "soon remittances may reach plateau levels given today's financial slowdown, and migrants and their families will be left out in the long run".

Examples from various countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, North America, and Europe are present, and they are featured in the international conference that Oxfam Novib, INAFI-Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center are sponsoring. ***(PR)***

SM wins 'Retail Asia' Best of the Best award

The SM Retail Group was a recipient of the Best of the Best award during the 2008 Retail Asia-Pacific Top 500 awards held recently at the Venetian Hotel-Resort in Macau, making it one of the region's premier retailers. During the same event, it also won the Gold award as the Philippines' top retailer for the fifth year in a row.

Spearheaded by Retail Asia, the prestigious Singapore-based magazine five years ago, the Top 500 ranks retailers in 14 Asia-Pacific economies on sales turnover and sales productivity. The ranking continues to highlight companies that have become the movers and shakers in the region's retail sector.

Drawing from Euromonitor International's research and analysis of the retail industry around the world, analysts in the 14 Asia-Pacific economies featured did research for the 2008 edition. The latter included Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The top three retailers from each of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze awards during the event; and the Best of the Best were selected from the Gold awardees. Other Best of the Best awardees included Matahari of Indonesia, GCH Retail in Malaysia, and NTUC Fairprice of Singapore. Local retailers cited included Mercury Drug and Rustan's, which won the Silver and Bronze awards, respectively, for the Philippines.

DOT: Visa lifting to lure tourists

By WILLY RODOLFO III
BUSINESS MIRROR

The Philippines made a fairly large step toward encouraging and increasing tourist arrivals with its "visa-upon-arrival" program for every foreigner scheduled to start next year.

"This single act is more than P500 million in additional promotions budget for the DOT [Departmen of Tourism]," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano. "This has been in the works for many years and is very important because the first things tourists ask us is about their visas."

The system will allow nationalities from nonvisa countries to fly to the Philippines through tourism department-and immigration bureau-accredited tour operators and get their visa on arrival. Nonvisa visitors are citizens of Association of Southeast Asian Nations member-countries, Korea, Japan, the United States and western European countries.

Durano anticipates that with the new program, arrivals from such visa countries as the former Soviet Union states, Russia and other countries in Asia and new members of the European Union would be encouraged to visit. He hopes the department would then hit easily, if not overshoot, its target visitors for next year.

"Countries like Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia are the emerging markets with a lot of money for travel," said Durano. "Most of our growth is from emerging markets that are former communist countries."

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Best ways students can make extra money

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I'm a college student, and I've been reading your articles online. I receive a weekly allowance from my parents, and with the tough times these days, sometimes it's not enough. And in a few weeks, tuition for the second semester will be due and I wish I could help with that. What can a student like me do?—Jong C.

AFP

Even students can find ways to make more money, especially in these challenging times.

Answer: In the US, it's not unusual for children to earn some extra money. Some young children sell lemonade, while the older ones offer services like babysitting, dog walking, lawn mowing, and newspaper delivery.

Here in the Philippines, most students focus on their studies. However, opportunities also abound for the student to find some extra money, and some college students, have in fact taken advantage of them.

There are many ways you can do to make some extra money. The best thing to do is to start first by assessing your talents and gifts. What are you good at? Below are some ideas:

1. Emceeing: If you have the gift of gab, you may emcee at events (even wedding programs) for a fee.

2. Singing: If you sing well, you can gather a group of friends and sing at parties, again for a fee.

3. Cooking: Are you good in cooking? Then whip up some food specialty, package it well, and sell it as a gift item this Christmas season.

4. Trading: Buy stuff you like from wholesale suppliers (examples: clothes, accessories, etc.) and sell these in bazaars or even through websites. Many enterprising students do business online through sites like Multiply, and they do well.

5. Coaching: If you excel in one sport, you might be interested in coaching sports teams for grade school kids. Sports programs that need coaches include soccer, basketball, and volleyball.

6. Writing: Think you have a knack for words? Consider contributing to the youth section of your favorite newspaper, where you will get paid for every article that gets published.

7. Scrapbooking: Some people want to have scrapbooks but do not have time to make them. Network with scrapbooking clubs as they offer this service to interested people.

8. Editing: Edit other students' papers for a fee, but don't make the mistake of doing the writing for them. 9. Dog breeding: If you like pets, consider breeding dogs with the help of your family.

10. Modeling. People with the look, flair and style can earn much by modeling for print and TV ads. Check out legitimate modeling agencies for more info.

These are just some of the things a college student may do. The possibilities are endless; just look at what you have. It's important to bank on your talents and gifts so working will not be a chore. It will instead be something you enjoy and look forward to doing outside class hours. But be sure your work will not affect your studies.

So you're earning; now what?

Let's say you have zeroed in on a way to earn more income. There are some things you should keep in mind if you want your earnings to be maximized.

1. Save. Because times are hard, and because you want to be financially secure someday, make it a habit to save at least 10 percent of your extra income. If you can commit to save more, so much the better. Deposit this in a savings account under your name, and don't touch it as much as possible.

2. Invest. Savings accounts give only a small amount of interest as compared to other forms of investment. When you have enough in your savings account to make the minimum investment required, move some of your money to a time deposit which will give you a higher rate of interest in return for you keeping your money in the bank for an agreed term (30 days, 90 days, 1 year, 5 years—it's up to you).

There's also another way to let this money earn more: by investing in pooled funds like a mutual fund or a unit investment trust fund. There's some risk involved as market values of investments go down, but with it comes the possibility of earning more. Study this option and talk to a bank officer, financial adviser, and your parents about it.

3. Limit your spending. It's nice to spend what one has earned, but if you spend for unnecessary stuff, you may end up with hardly nothing at all. Use your money wisely by prioritizing your needs. Steer clear of buying branded goods and expensive gadgets. If you can live with simpler stuff, do so. Your friends love you for who you are, not for what you own.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

‘Buzz’ to apologize

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board conducted an adjudication hearing on Wednesday on the complaint filed by former actress Nadia Montenegro against Cristy Fermin, host of “The Buzz,” who was recently suspended by ABS-CBN.

The network and the board agreed that “Buzz” main host Boy Abunda will make a public apology on the Sunday afternoon talk show for the “uncontrollable behavior” of Fermin during an interview on Oct. 5 regarding her feud with Montenegro.

Fermin

In that interview, Fermin alleged that Montenegro had given birth to a baby girl whose father was not the actress’ longtime partner, former Caloocan City Mayor Macario “Boy” Asistio.

ABS-CBN was represented in Wednesday’s closed-door hearing by business unit head Louie Andrada and executive producer Nancy Yabut, the network’s legal director Mona Lisa Manalo and assistant liaison for the MTRCB Daisy Parungao. The board was represented by vice-chair Marc Castrodes and members Noel del Prado and Cristine Concordia.

The network suspended Fermin from her TV and radio shows exactly a week before the hearing. In an official statement issued on Oct. 15, the network said: “Fermin’s statements violated the highest standards of professionalism and journalistic integrity ... jeopardizing the name and goodwill of the show and the network.”

After the hearing, the network representatives, committed to pre-tape segments that tackle sensitive issues, for self-regulation.

The network also promised to publish a public apology in a major daily, “on a best-efforts basis,” said board chair Marissa Laguardia.

“The board’s jurisdiction covers only ‘The Buzz,’” she clarified. As for Montenegro and Fermin’s word war, “They could ... pursue their cases in court or settle their differences privately.”

Ryan clarifies his role in Judai’s life

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Last Sunday on “The Buzz,” manager Alfie Lorenzo explained talent Judy Ann Santos’ hesitance to sign a new contract with ABS-CBN, thus: “She wanted to consult a lawyer... Maybe [she’s conferring with] Atty. Agoncillo.”

Lorenzo was obviously alluding to Santos’ fiancé, Ryan Agoncillo.

‘All is well’

As expected, Agoncillo was deluged with all sorts of inquiries about Lorenzo’s comment during the press conference on Tuesday of the latest Kapamilya series, “Pieta.”

Agoncillo tried to nip the controversy in the bud. “I don’t want to make a statement out of respect to Tito Alfie and Judai,” he told Inquirer Entertainment.

The actor added that he discussed the issue with Lorenzo the night before. “I told him how I felt; and he told me how he felt. All is well...”

At press time, Santos and Lorenzo have also settled their differences.

Agoncillo made one thing clear: He doesn’t meddle in his fiancée’s business affairs.

“People often overlook the fact that Judai is very much capable of making decisions on her own,” he said. “She wouldn’t have become this successful if she weren’t wise to the ways of the industry.”

He continued: “She has her own decision-making process and I am not part of that. Being her fiancé doesn’t give me the right to interfere. If she chooses to open up to me, I can only listen and give assurance...”

Santos accords him the same respect, he said. “We have complete trust in each other’s competence in our respective careers...”

As for the intrigues, Agoncillo readily shrugged them off. “I just take everything in stride.”

Apart from “Pieta,” he hosts the TV5 talent search “Talentadong Pinoy.” He is also hosting the forthcoming ABS-CBN reality show, “Pinoy Fear Factor.”

Also in the works is a co-starring job with KC Concepcion and Richard Gutierrez in GMA Films’ Valentine offering directed by Jose Javier Reyes.

Ryan Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos.

RUSHES

Radio-TV host still has to face MTRCB

By the Entertainment Staff

MANILA, Philippines (Philippine Daily Inquirer)—Although she’s been suspended by ABS-CBN, TV-radio host Cristy Fermin is not off the hook, as far as the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board is concerned. Marissa Laguardia, board chair, told Rushes, “Nadia Montenegro’s complaint against Cristy Fermin will be heard by the adjudication committee this week. Fermin’s suspension was the network’s decision, not the board’s.”

Wrong quote

“The Buzz” misquoted a *Philippine Daily Inquirer* front-page story saying that Angeli Pangilinan denied the rumored separation of her brother Francis from wife Sharon Cuneta. For the record, what Angeli denied was a “TV Patrol” report that claimed she tried to call Sharon and was given the cold shoulder.

Feedback from Lani

On Oct. 5, Lani Mercado sent a text message regarding a “Top of the Tabloids” item that came out in Rushes that day.

The item said: “Anak ni Sen. Bong Revilla, gusto na raw hiwalayan ang asawa. (Kawawang Lani.)”

Lani wanted to know: “Are you pertaining to [my daughter] Inah? She just gave birth on Sept. 30. Inah and [husband] Vince are very much okay.”

Rushes clarifies: The item is a tabloid report, the reaction is ours. Lani has had to deal with a lot more than usual.

Bobot’s angels

Director Edgar “Bobot” Mortiz, on the girls of his Saturday gag show on ABS-CBN, “Banana Split”—Angelica Panganiban, Cristine Reyes, Roxanne Guinoo, Valerie Concepcion: “They are not comedians, but dramatic actresses who can do comedy. I’m very satisfied with their performance.”

The competition

“I tell my beauticians, we are competing with ourselves, not with other beauty salons. If people say we’re bakya, just ignore them,” says Ricky Reyes, host of QTV 11’s “Life and Style.” “Mother” Ricky adds, “Ayaw ko ng nanggagaya. I’m not concerned with what others are doing. Sila na lang ang gumaya sa akin.” The show airs 10 a.m. Sundays.

Settlement to follow

LONDON—Madonna’s divorce settlement with her estranged husband Guy Ritchie has yet to be finalized, the singer’s publicist said Sunday. The Sun and The Mail on Sunday reported that the two had struck a deal over their finances and property. The Mail also reported that they had agreed to a custody arrangement for their children— Rocco, 8, and David Banda, 3, who was adopted in Malawi in 2006. Madonna has a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, with Carlos Leon. ***(AP)***

Those Palin skits

NEW YORK—More people are checking out Tina Fey’s Sarah Palin impersonations Saturday night later than Saturday night live. Fey’s dead-on take of the Republican vice presidential candidate seems to be the pop-culture event of the campaign season, a landmark in how people watch television, and a peek into the future of a new media world.

AP
Singer actress Nelly Furtado arrives at the premiere of “Max Payne” Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

Only one-third of the people who have seen at least one of the skits watched it first live on “Saturday Night Live.” More people have checked them out online or, to a lesser extent, watched later on a digital video recorder or through video on demand, according to Integrated Media Measurement Inc., a research firm that measures media exposure through a person’s mobile phone. ***(AP)***

Secretly married

OTTAWA—Grammy-winning Canadian singer Nelly Furtado was secretly married over the summer to the sound engineer on her last album, she revealed to Entertainment Tonight Canada. She and Demacio Castellon were hitched on July 19, she said. “I love it … I just feel kind of free and relaxed and more in tune with trying not to be so stressed out,” Furtado, 29, said. She has a child, 4-year-old daughter Nevis, from a relationship that ended in 2005. ***(AFP)***

■ ■ ■

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend’s gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

■ Katrina Halili, asked how Kris Lawrence is different from past boyfriends: “Magalang, mabait, marunong rumespeto, di nag-te-take advantage, conservative.” (Did she effectively describe five exes with that statement?)

■ Kris, on his relationship with Katrina: “Para akong nanalo sa lotto.” (It used to be “jueteng.”)

■ Dingdong Dantes, on rumors of a breakup with girlfriend Karylle: “We’re doing fine. Sa amin, that’s all that matters.” (Alert: “Fine” doesn’t usually cut it.)

■ KC Concepcion, on news that parents Gabby Concepcion and Sharon Cuneta have made peace: “Sa nalalaman ko po okay na sila. Going strong. I’m very happy na nagkatotoo rin ’yung munting pangarap ko na magbati silang dalawa.” (Hindi yata munting pangarap ’yun a.)

■ Yasmien Kurdi, on reports of a drinking habit: “Medyo nakakadismaya lang po na ang daming nilang tinatawag sa aking names pa. Pag-nag-aaral po ba, kailangan pang may maglabasan na kung anong mga masasamang issue? Etong pag-aaral po, binigyan ko ng gift ang sarili ko.” (Huh?)

■ Joey de Leon, on patching up with Willie Revillame: “Gumaan ang pakiramdam ko. Maganda ’yun eh.” (Thank goodness for one less negative vibe in the air.)

■ Jennylyn Mercado, asked if she would allow Patrick Garcia to see their son AJ: “Anak ko lang po ito.” (Actually, there is a term for that method of reproduction …)

■ Sam Milby, asked if his breakup with Anne Curtis was for real: “Yung problema namin, we want to keep it to ourselves muna but I can assure lahat ng mga tao, lahat ng mga fans na, una, walang third party. Jericho (Rosales) has nothing to do with it. We’re trying to work it out.” (So how much are you keeping to yourselves kaya?)

■ Sam, on the chance of being together again with Anne: “I really hope so because, you know, we have a lot of amazing memories and, of course everyone knows how I still feel for her.” (Okay, stop na.)

■ Alfie Lorenzo to Judy Ann Santos, after she consulted a lawyer, not him, over renewing her ABS-CBN contract: “Ilang years na tayo pumipirma sa ABS, walang attorney. Di ka naman nakulong sa kapipirma natin … Sino ba ang attorney na ’yan? Hindi naman siguro Attorney Agoncillo ’yan ano?” (Ay, parang galit yata.)

■ Judy Ann’s explanation: “It doesn’t mean na binabalewala ko si Tito Alfie. Ipaalala ko lang po sa inyo, 30 years old na po ako. Pwede na po siguro ako mag-desisyon.” (Ay, parang galit din.)

Sources: “Startalk,” “The Buzz”

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Uncontrolled corruption

It is not just a perception, it is the reality: The Philippines is one of the world's most corrupt nations.

That is according to Justin Wood, director of the Southeast Asia Corporate Network of The Economist Intelligence Unit. "The Philippines is perceived as one of the most corrupt countries in the world," Wood told the Business Roundtable in Makati City earlier this month, citing the results of the latest survey on corruption done by Transparency International. "The perception is very correct."

In Transparency International's latest Corruption Perception Index, the Philippines was way down at 141 among the 180 countries surveyed. Its score of 2.3 (on a scale where 10 means perfectly clean), the lowest it has received since the survey was started in 1995, put the Philippines behind all of its neighbors in Southeast Asia.

Not surprisingly, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo disagrees. She told the same meeting that the perception of widespread corruption was the media's creation. The people surveyed by Transparency International based their answers on what they read in the newspapers, she said, adding: "We have to remember that we have the freest media in the region... What would be on page 10 in some other countries would be banner headline in the Philippines. Even rumors and innuendos become fact when they are in the banner headline."

But is corruption in the Philippines largely a figment of the imagination, as the President would like everyone to believe? Arroyo herself seemed to implicitly acknowledge that there is (or was) a problem when she accepted a $21-million grant from the World Bank to fund the Philippines Threshold Program to fight corruption. But with the program coming to an end in November, the World Bank has been forced to admit that it has been a dismal failure. In fact, during the two years the program has been running, "control of corruption" by the Philippine government was actually deteriorating. Thus, while the Philippines had a "control of corruption" score that was in the 76th percentile in 2006, this went down to the 57th percentile in 2007 and further down to the 47th percentile this year.

This was the first time the Philippines flunked the "control of corruption" indicator, prompting the World Bank to question the effectiveness of its threshold programs in combating corruption. In addition, this poor performance has virtually disqualified the country from availing itself of further grants from the Millennium Challenge Corp. "Control of corruption" is the only "hard hurdle" a country must pass to be eligible for funding assistance from the Millennium Challenge.

People who keep hoping for clean and honest government that uses taxpayers' money wisely and well will have to wait for another administration. The President thinks corruption is not a problem or at least not the serious problem businessmen and other observers take it to be. Nothing, not even neutral surveys and studies, will change her mind. It would be pointless and futile to look up to her for a solution. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

New frontiers

Barring any major blunder by Barack Obama, the United States is going to see its first black president next year. And the way things are, Obama is about as likely to make a blunder over the next three weeks as John McCain is likely to make a game-changing move in that time. The last debate showed so. McCain was offensive throughout in more ways than one, trying to get a rise from Obama to make him out as the scary guy "palling around with terrorists," but all McCain did was cast himself in that role. As one CNN panelist said in the postmortem, McCain at several points looked like he needed to take anger management sessions.

Obama remained cool and unruffled. So cool and unruffled he refused to stick a few pins in McCain's side, though heaven knows he had ample opportunity to do so. He didn't go after Sarah Palin when asked who between their running mates would be better equipped to become president. He didn't say when McCain proposed that he travel more that he didn't get his passport only this year, unlike McCain's running mate. He didn't say when McCain characterized all rallies as having their share of "fringe" people that the Democratic rallies did not have fringe people who shouted "McCain terrorist!" and "Kill him!" and that their fringe people did not include their vice presidential bet.

He just stuck to his core message, which was the economy, the economy, the economy. Which seemed to have worked very well: At the end of three debates, 3-0.

Friends of mine of course have wondered: What if the polls are wrong? What if the interviewees just tried to look "pogi" and gave politically correct answers, while secretly harboring racist sentiments and planning to vote for the white guy in the end? Well, nothing's impossible, though some are far-fetched. The polls do make allowances for the racism factor, giving Obama a minus three points there, not enough to overturn his ever-widening lead over McCain. And these are extraordinary times for Americans. These are times when they've become oblivious to black and white and can only see green. Or the lack of it. Or the continuing erosion of it. Or the steady disappearance of it.

So, barring any last-minute twist—which politics is not naturally home to—the United States is going to have its first black president next year. That is a watershed in history.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I do not know how far Obama will go to change US policy. As the campaign shows, he has to operate within the context of a tremendously conservative power structure that sees the most tenuous relationship with a William Ayers, a current professor who once harbored militant ideas, as the height of radicalism. As president-elect, of course, he has more leeway to go against the grain than as candidate. But the question is always by how much.

One thing I do know—which is probably the best way to gauge how far Obama will depart from orthodoxy: If McCain wins, he will cling with the tenacity of a bulldog to the Iraq War. With the most disastrous consequences for the US economy. With the most disastrous consequences for America's relations with its allies. And with the most disastrous consequences for America's image abroad.

Obama has promised to pull out of that war, repair America's damaged relations with the UN and various allies, and improve the way the world looks at the United States which currently can only be put into strings of symbols containing lightning bolts and swastikas. If he can do that, he'll have gone far toward making a kinder and gentler America, something the candidates of the last couple of decades promised but never did.

One thing I do know as well, which is that Obama's victory by itself will already have gone a long way toward improving America's image before the world. It's not just because Obama is the world's choice for next US president, though that's quite a feat in itself. It's simply that I go back to something Time Magazine said in its 2000 edition of the 100 most important Americans of the 20th century. One of them was Martin Luther King, and Time said then it couldn't understand why King's name attached only to the streets, schools and hospitals of predominantly black neighborhoods. When his significance extended to the nation as a whole.

Without King, Time said, the United States would never have had the credibility to claim to be a beacon of freedom to the world. The Iron Curtain of the USSR would have had its counterpart in the Cotton Curtain of the American South. It was King who saved America from that image. It was King who saved America from that predicament. It was King who saved America from itself.

Obama becoming the president of the United States pushes the envelope farther. The idea that America's incursions into various parts of the world and propping up of tyrants in "friendly states" owes in part to racist sentiments is widely held. Not without basis. Daniel Boone-Schirmer for one made an excellent case for the US occupation of the Philippines in 1898 as driven in great part by Hearst's racist newspapers.

Obama as president should lessen that perception. It won't make it go away, but it will lessen it. The question of how the United States can possibly value the worth of the colored peoples of the world when it can't value the worth of its own should at least have new answers. It earns goodwill of monumental proportions, one Obama would do well to nourish and sustain with policies that advance the cause of a fairer and better America. Or with policies that push back the current image of an ugly and arrogant America. One I personally see every time McCain smirks and talks about "that one."

To paraphrase Dickens: It's the worst of times, it's the best of times. One can only hope that what's true for America can be true for the world.

Aliases

"Jurassic" is a word I never imagined would apply to me, until my students brought home the point. Three years ago I came to class, as I had been doing for many years, to give what has since been known on campus as "The Great Ambeth Ocampo Slideshow." This was my introduction to the course on Jose Rizal, made lively by my collection of photographs showing the development of the National Hero from age 12 to the time he was shot at 35 years, six months, 10 days, seven hours and five minutes. I had been using positives and a slide projector. I think for many of the students this was part of the experience. As I was setting up the equipment, one of the students, pointing at the projector asked, "What is that?" Then it hit me: This equipment was "cutting edge" two decades earlier. But in the age of PowerPoint and Keynote for the Mac, the "Great Ambeth Ocampo Slideshow" was quaint.

To compare pictures, I would sometimes run two machines on two screens, and that used to be impressive. In the computer age, however, it was definitely antiquarian.

So I stepped into the 21st century like everyone else, and the experience of the clicking sound and the ventilator of the slide machine is no more.

Another thing my students find strange are research assignments that require a trip to the library. You can actually hear a collective groan when this is announced, and voices from the back of the room ask, "Aren't those materials available on the Net?" When I explain that not all things are available online and that a trip to the library is part of university life, someone stands up and asks, "You mean to say, you want us to handle a physical book?"

This sharp remark made me feel 200 years old. Looking back on my days in college, we did have to visit the library and go through those 3 x 5 cards in narra drawers called a "card catalogue." Today students can open the catalogue of almost any major library in the universe online. To borrow a book, I had to write down call numbers and accession numbers on a library card, sign my name on yet another card found in a sleeve on the back cover of the book. The end of the process was when the librarian stamped the due date on the book and the library card.

Today you can check out a book without a librarian. All you need to do is scan your university ID and barcodes on the books, just as a "tindera" [vendor] checks out groceries in a supermarket. I wonder what became of all those narra card catalogues. What I regret though was not collecting the cards with signatures in the backs of books. Fellow teacher Danton Remoto once told me to gather these from the Ateneo de Manila University's Rizal Library because I would actually find autographs of famous borrowers: Horacio de la Costa, Fernando Zobel, Doreen G. Fernandez, Rolando Tinio, Alfredo Navarro Salanga, Bienvenido Lumbera, etc. The University of the Philippines (UP) Main Library in Diliman, Quezon City, would have been another source of famous autographs.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Internet is really a wonderful research tool, and I cannot imagine scholarly life without it. But there is still a thrill to handling physical books, there is still excitement going through the stacks and finding a book that one did not expect to find. Just recently I was in the UP Main Library and I saw that they still maintained a card catalogue in some forgotten corner of the reference section. Out of pure nostalgia, I hurried there to handle old and grimy cards and was surprised that it contained a list of periodical materials indexed by author and subject. Then there was one drawer that had an alphabetical listing of pseudonyms. This was not on the Online Public Access Catalogue, or OPAC. The pen names were not even written on cards but on slips of scratch paper. I spent an hour going through these, and here are some of my findings:

I always knew Rizal used the pseudonyms Dimasalang (that's Tagalog for Touch me not), Laong Laan (Ever-prepared) and even Calambeño. But this list said Rizal also used AGNO. Faustino Aguilar was SINAG-INA. Novelist Valeriano Hernandez Peña had many names: Ahas na Tulog, Anong, Damulag, Dating Alba, Isang Dukha, Kalampag and Kintin Kulirat. Antonio K. Abad was Akasia. Pedro de Govantes de Azcarraga was Conde de Albay. Luis Taruc used Alipato, which means "spark that spreads a fire." One of Rizal's pet dogs was also called Alipato.

Aurelio Alvero was better known as Magtanggul Asa. Macario Adriatico (1869-1919) for whom Adriatico Street in Malate was named used the names Amaori, C. Amabri and Felipe Malayo. Hugo Salazar was Ambut. Jose Palma (1876-1903), the poet who wrote the lyrics of our National Anthem, was also known as Ana-haw, Esteban Estebanes, Gan Hantik. Both Lope K. Santos and Pascual H. Poblete used Anak-Bayan. The former also used Doctor Lukas. Rizal's grand niece Asuncion Lopez Bantug used "Apo ni Dimas."

Revolutionaries had many aliases. Jesus Lava was B. Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista was Ba Basiong. Pascual Alvarez was Bagongbuhay. Moises Salvador was Araw. Andres Bonifacio played on his initials and used Agapito Bagumbayan, while his inspiring Katipunan name was Maypagasa.

Sixto Lopez was Batulaw. Apolinario Mabini was Bini. Gen. Vito Belarmino was Blind Veteran. Severino de las Alas was Di-kilala. Juan Luna was J.B. or simply Buan, a translation of his surname Luna which means moon. For writing, Emilio Jacinto used Dimas-ilaw. His Katipunan name was Pingkian.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

SHIRLEY'S CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff and management of Shirley's Restaurant pose after a cleanup activity near the Microl Intersection held last week. The cleanup is part of the company's regular monthly voluntary activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edmund Apencio of Shirley's Garapan helps a fellow employee during a cleanup activity held last week along a stretch of Beach Road near the Microl Intersection.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Triskelion marks its 40th anniversary on Oct. 4, 2008. Shown here are members of the Northern Mariana Islands Council (Saipan & Tinian): Brothers Edgar, Larry, Edwin, Erick, Dhing, Bhoy, Rodel, Rio Jacob, Reylan, Anthony, Joel, Thandy, Ernie and Sis Judy.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Renato "RG" Lucas Abubo Jr., who celebrated his second birthday last Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008 at his parents' residence in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. Greetings come from his Dad and Mom. The celebrant is shown here with his dad Renato Sr. and mom Gemma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life Begins at 40: Members of the Tau Gamma Phi/Sigma, International Council Worldwide pose for a souvenir picture.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

We would like to thanks all visitors and the San Diego Regional Council, Northern Central Southern California Council Triskelion Alumni Organization for welcoming us into their Yahoo Groups.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Assembly pastor Rey Kinsela leads the congregation in the dedication of Baby Daniel.

DEDICATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Benjamin and Kaye Ganapin held a Christian dedication ceremony for their baby Daniel Jamin Ganapin last Oct. 18 at the Grace Christian Assembly in Navy Hill. Photo above shows the proud parents with Baby Daniel and Grandma Krell.

YoungStyle

Election issues for 2008: Health care

By VALERIE STRAUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. What can the president do to help every child grow up healthy?

You may dread going to the doctor—but think about what would happen if you were very sick and your parents couldn't afford to take you. That's a problem for millions of kids in the United States.

The next president will have a big role in deciding how to help those who can't get good medical care.

Health care is very expensive; the way most families try to afford it is to have health insurance. Most people in the United States get health insurance through their jobs, with workers and employers splitting the cost of the insurance.

Insurance may be the only thing that you pay for but hope you won't ever use. Your family probably has car insurance, for example. Your parents make a payment called a premium every month. If the car is in an accident and needs to be fixed or replaced, the insurance helps pays the cost of that. Health insurance helps families pay doctors' bills.

But many Americans don't have health insurance—46 million of them, or 15 percent of the population. Of that number, 8 million younger than 18. That's about 11 percent of all U.S. kids.

People don't have insurance for different reasons. Some don't have jobs and can't afford their own policy. Some work for small businesses that don't have the money to help workers buy it.

The two presidential candidates, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, have different approaches to helping more people get health insurance and improving medical care. Here are some of their views.

HEALTH CARE FACT

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Every dollar spent vaccinating kids against measles, mumps and rubella saves $16 in future health costs.

Source: Children's Defense Fund

OBAMA

Basic approach to health insurance:

■ Would guarantee that anybody who wants health insurance gets it, offering a plan to all Americans similar to one available to U.S. government workers.

■ Would require big companies that do not offer health plans to their workers to do so and would help small businesses pay for insurance for more employees.

Who gets: Would require that all children have health insurance but not all adults.

Other cost-cutting ideas:

■ Would put a limit on the profits that drug companies can make. Supports bringing in cheaper prescription drugs from other countries.

■ Would prevent insurance companies from refusing to sell insurance to people who are sick (also known as people with a preexisting condition).

Price tag for health-care plan (estimate by the independent Tax Policy Center): $1.6 trillion over 10 years.

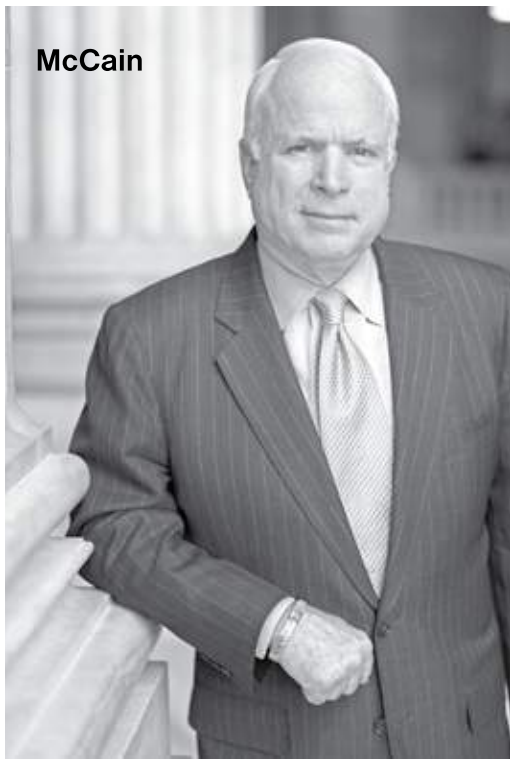
MCCAIN

Basic approach to health insurance:

■ Would give Americans a $5,000 credit to pay for their insurance but would make people pay taxes on insurance provided by employers, which has never been done.

■ Says if people (rather than companies) pay for insurance, people will be more careful about how they spend the money.

■ Would work with state governments to help the uninsured.



Who gets: Would not require anyone to get insurance.

Other cost-cutting ideas:

■ Would make it harder for people to take their doctors to court, saying that the costs of these lawsuits push up the costs of medical coverage for everyone.

■ Supports bringing in cheaper prescription drugs from other countries.

Price tag for health-care plan (Tax Policy Center estimate): $1.3 trillion over 10 years.

Sources: www.barackobama.com, mccainforpresident.com, everychildmatters.org, votegopher.com, familiesusa.org, U.S. Census Bureau

Kids talk about their health care

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

In 2007, nearly 9,500 U.S. kids were interviewed about their health and their health care. Here is how they answered some of the questions:

83 percent said their health was excellent or very good

12 percent of kids without insurance hadn't seen a doctor in more than two years

6 percent had no regular doctor or clinic

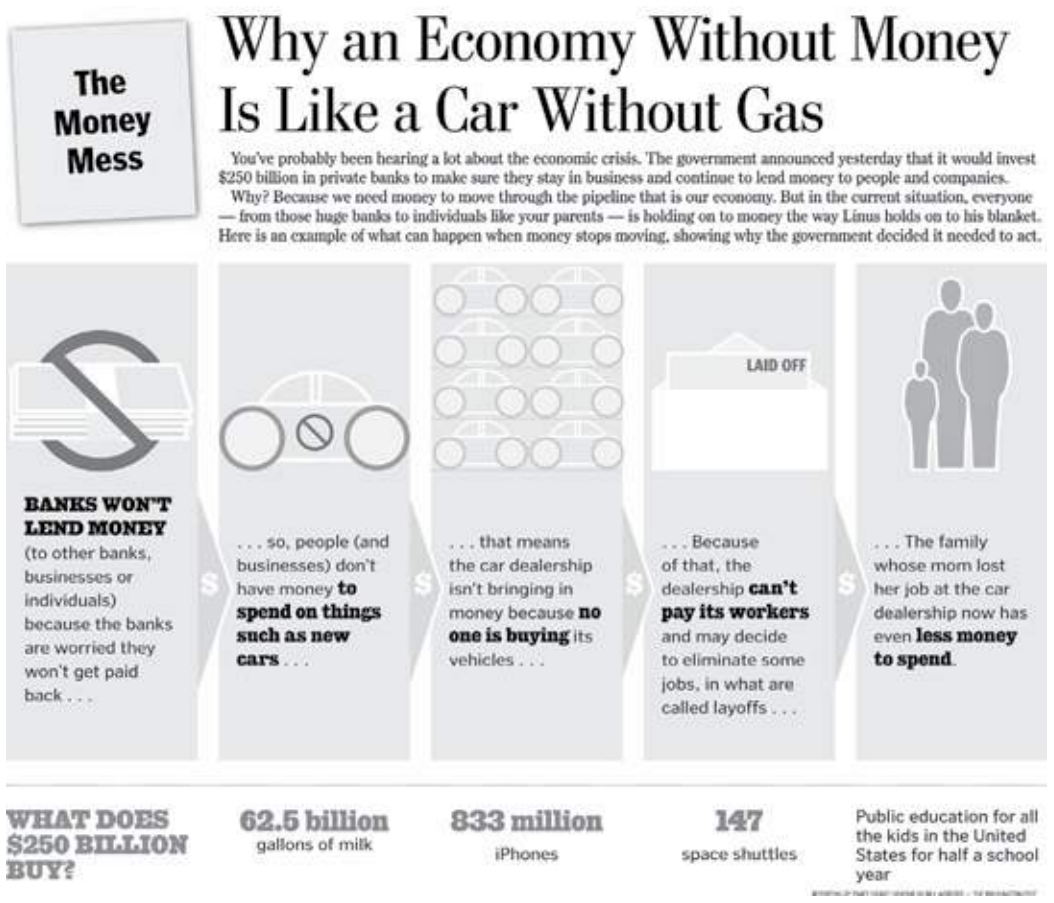
Percentage of kids without health insurance based on family income:

Less than $35,000: 13 percent

$35,000 to $49,999: 14 percent

$100,000 or more: 2 percent

Source: National Health Interview survey 2007; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


The Money Mess
Why an Economy Without Money Is Like a Car Without Gas
You've probably been hearing a lot about the economic crisis. The government announced yesterday that it would invest $250 billion in private banks to make sure they stay in business and continue to lend money to people and companies.
Why? Because we need money to move through the pipeline that is our economy. But in the current situation, everyone — from those huge banks to individuals like your parents — is holding on to money the way Linus holds on to his blanket. Here is an example of what can happen when money stops moving, showing why the government decided it needed to act.
BANKS WON'T LEND MONEY (to other banks, businesses or individuals) because the banks are worried they won't get paid back . . .
. . . so, people (and businesses) don't have money to spend on things such as new cars . . .
. . . that means the car dealership isn't bringing in money because no one is buying its vehicles . . .
LAID OFF
. . . Because of that, the dealership can't pay its workers and may decide to eliminate some jobs, in what are called layoffs . . .
. . . The family whose mom lost her job at the car dealership now has even less money to spend.
WHAT DOES $250 BILLION BUY?
62.5 billion gallons of milk
833 million iPhones
147 space shuttles
Public education for all the kids in the United States for half a school year

For kids, it's not about playing to win

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen writes KidsPost's sports opinion column and is an author of sports novels for kids.

It's the time of the year when all the major professional sports are in action. Everyone pays so much attention to pro sports that sometimes when kids play sports, parents, coaches and kids think young athletes should be mini-professionals.

But kids aren't pros, and pros aren't kids. Maybe this is a good time to remind everyone of some important differences between the games we watch on TV and the games kids play.

Pros play to win. Professional sports are a big business. Many people's jobs and millions of dollars can depend on which athlete or team is crowned champion. Kids should play to learn about competing, improve their skills and have fun. Winning is great, but it shouldn't be the only reason kids play sports.

In pro sports, if a player does not play well, the team cuts him. Take the Washington Redskins' punter at the start of this season, Durant Brooks. He had a couple of bad games, and the Redskins got rid of him. Though some travel teams cut kids, I don't think they should. Coaches and teams should give kids time to improve.

Pros push their bodies so hard that they often play hurt. Think of the injury list before every NFL game or remember when Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open on a broken leg. But professional athletes are adults, and they can decide for themselves whether playing hurt is worth the risk.

Kids should never play hurt. No game, even a championship game, is worth the risk of further injuring a young athlete. Parents and coaches should remember that it is more important to keep kids healthy so they can enjoy sports for a lifetime than to win some trophy for 12-year-olds.

Very few professional athletes play more than one sport. The competition at the top is so tough that pros have to concentrate on their one sport and work year-round to keep up their skills. Kids should play more than one sport. Playing different sports helps kids become better all-around athletes and avoid injuries. It also helps kids from getting burned out on one sport.

Elena Delle Donne, a basketball player so good that she is known as "the female LeBron James," quit basketball this summer to play college volleyball. After playing hoops exclusively for years—Delle Donne has had a personal trainer since the second grade—she stopped. "The sport ended up dying for me," she said.

So enjoy watching all the pro sports action. Just don't forget that the reason kids should be playing sports is for the fun of it.

Fred Bowen writes sports novels for kids.

RIDDLE CARD

1. Why is a river rich?
2. If 12 makes a dozen, how many make a billion?
3. What is always behind time?
4. When is a window like a star?
5. Who earns his living without doing a day's work?

Answers: 1. Because it has two banks. 2. Not very many. 3. The back of a watch. 4. When it is a skylight. 5. A night watchman.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER

Starting with the given word HAILSTORM at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with HAILSTORM.

1. An icy shower (given).
2. Student of moral problems.
3. They work with cloth.
4. He travels by water.
5. Type of energy.
6. In addition to.
7. Nickname.
8. For instance.
9. Blood type.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Hailstorm, moralist, tailors, sailor, solar, also, Sal, as, a.

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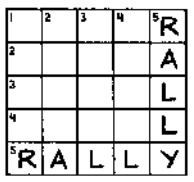
NUMERIC MARCHING ORDERS! Can you tell us how the following numbers have been arranged?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 3 2

Answer: The numbers are arranged in ascending alphabetical order.

LET'S HAVE A WORD "RALLY"! Can you find the four five-letter words needed on the right that match the definitions below? All words must read the same across and down.

1. Radio detection.
2. Main artery of the body.
3. Fawning show of thanks.
4. Ring-shaped coral island.
5. An enthusiastic gathering (given).



Answers: 1. Radar. 2. Aorta. 3. Drool. 4. Atoll. 5. Rally.

Economy puts strain on pet owners

Q: I live on a fixed income, and with rising prices and this poor economy, I worry about being able to pay the bills. The one thing I never want to skimp on is caring for my two cats, Farley and Socks. But I am worried about having enough money for vet bills should they fall sick. What can I do?—Gloria in Los Angeles

A: These really are worrisome times, and pet care can fall by the wayside when pet owners are trying to pay for necessities. However, there are low-cost services available for pet owners, especially in big cities.

The American Animal Hospital Association (www.aahahelpingpets.org), through its Helping Pets fund, can help pay for part or all of a pet's veterinary care.

Larger pet hospitals often offer programs for pet owners with limited means. Universities that teach veterinary medicine might offer discounted services. Contact one in your area and ask what programs it offers.

Keep an eye out for coupons and discount programs offered by local veterinary clinics. These offer things like free office visits and discounts on routine services.

Senior services in many towns and cities organize sessions to give rabies shots and other necessary vaccinations, for free or little cost.

In short, there are programs out there to help owners pay for their pets' medical costs, but they are not always widely advertised. The best thing to do is start looking for low-cost care options now, while your pets are healthy and you have time to sift through the information. Talk to your regular vet and friends who have pets, call your city or county animal shelter and senior services department, ask the manager of your favorite pet store—there are many resources available.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ As we get closer to the election on Nov. 4, it might be a good time to remember the following observation from American author Norman Mailer: "I don't trust a man who uses the word evil 18 times in 10 minutes. If you're half evil, nothing soothes you more than to think the person you are opposed to is totally evil."

■ You may not be surprised to learn that Arthur Davidson, co-founder of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle company, died in a motor vehicle accident. You may be surprised to learn, however, that the accident involved a car, not a bike.

■ Those who study such things claim that bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

■ If you're a pet owner, it will come as no surprise to you that the animals we love can sometimes wreak havoc on our homes and possessions. In order to quantify that damage, a survey was recently conducted to determine which dogs are the most destructive and cost the most money in repairs to or replacement of damaged goods. It's interesting to note that size didn't seem to have much effect; the breed that currently holds the Guinness world record for the tallest dog, the Great Dane, topped the list of destructive canines, while the smallest breed in the world, the Chihuahua, came in second.

■ The word "hierarchy," which now refers to organization by level, originally meant "rule by priests."

■ If you're planning a trip to Ohio next summer, be sure to make it to Akron in July—you wouldn't want to miss the National Hamburger Festival. Activities and events include the Hamburger Eating Championship, the Miss Hamburger competition and Bobbing for Burgers—in a vat of ketchup, of course.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Calamities are of two kinds: misfortunes to ourselves, and good fortune to others."—Ambrose Bierce

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H D A X U Q N K H E B Y V S P
N M J F H N E B Y V T Q O L I
G A D E E B Y W T R P M M K I
F Y M R D B Y W U S U Q O M K
N S R R E V I R H S I F D B Z
X A D A E V W U K S Q O N L J
W F G R N B U I H R F D C A Y
W V T O A C E A E S X Q P P N
L K I H L W M I F F O E M C B
Z Y W V E G D O L E N E U S R
Q P N E S T N E B N K M L J I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bentsen, Dole, Edwards, FDR, Ferraro, Kefauver, Kemp, Knox, Lieberman, Logan, McNary, Muskie, Reid, Shriver, Warren

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		31
+		×		+	
	÷		×		24
+		+		×	
	×		−		38
21		24		36	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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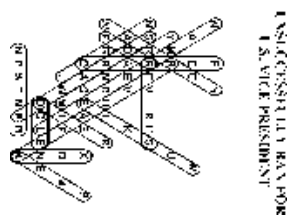
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

5	×	6	3	+	31
+		×		+	
9	÷	3	×	8	24
+		×		+	
7	×	6	−	4	38
21		24		36	

Tote your treats in 'Halloween Style'

The Halloween costume scramble is on as kids count down to school parades, hay rides and ringing doorbells on Halloween night. Amidst the last-minute chaos of searching for your adorable princess's missing tiara or her brother's dashing pirate scarf, let's be honest: What REALLY matters to most kids is the "trick or treat" part of the masquerade. It's all about the loot!

Tote those special treats in Halloween style as you complement this year's disguise, whether it's Dora, Curious George or a bumblebee. Decorate these clever treat bags at home as a family. Or, use this idea for a "party activity" if you are volunteering to help with the classroom party at school or hosting a ghoulish gathering in your home. All ages can join in on the creative fun.

You'll need heavy-duty small or large paper shopping bags with handles, construction paper, tape, white household glue, scissors and markers. I like to have plenty of extra supplies on hand, too, such as pipe cleaners, stickers and fabric scraps.

Tell the kids to get their imaginations brewing and think of the opened bag has the "place" where their character would live or go, then decorate the outside of the bag to look like the facade of that place. Here are some ideas to get you started:

SUPERMAN or SPIDER-MAN: Leap tall buildings with a New York City skyscraper. Use a solid-color sheet of paper glued to one side of the bag for the front of the building. For windows, cut 3-inch strips of white electrical or reflective tape and stick them to the sheet in neat rows. Cut out a door shape from paper and glue it to the bottom.

PRINCESS: Make the facade of an enchanting castle. Glue a gray sheet of paper to the outside of the bag and decorate with cut-out cone-shape turrets topped with paper flags.

BIRD: Tote a bird's nest. Cut out a large sheet of brown paper in the shape of a nest. Glue to the front of the bag, and then add twigs, real leaves, bits of yarn and string and lots of craft feathers.

Extra tip: If you can't find paper bags with handles, tape cut strips of poster board or woven ribbon or twine securely to the inside of the top of the bag.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

This Monday, July 31, 2006 file photo shows actor Will Ferrell onstage during a pre-taping of MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

AP

Will Ferrell's Bush meets Fey's Palin on 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—Appearing as President Bush on the primetime edition of "Saturday Night Live," Will Ferrell offered his political "strategery" to Tina Fey's Sarah Palin.

Ferrell reprised his famed impression of the president on the live "Weekend Update" special Thursday to give an "impromptu" evening address to the nation. He spoke about the election between John McCain and Barack Obama - both candidates, he said, that are "heavily patriotized" and "display much characterization."

He then gave his endorsement to McCain and Palin, something that they apparently didn't want. Ferrell said he was unaware that his approval ratings were low because he had several months ago declared the Oval Office a "bummer free zone."

Speaking to Fey again appearing as Palin, Ferrell informed her that her role as vice president was "the most important in the land" and that the "president can do nothing without checking with the vice president." Fey corrected him that he had it backward.

Eventually Darrell Hammond as McCain turned up to reluctantly receive the endorsement.

The sketch between Ferrell and Fey was the meeting of the two of the most popular political impressions in the show's history. It might have been complete only if Chevy Chase stopped by as Gerald Ford, Dana Carvey appeared as H.W. Bush and Amy Poehler joined as Hillary Clinton.

An alum to the NBC comedy show, Ferrell was the latest guest star to make an appearance on "SNL," which has seen its ratings soar this election season. Fey has become a virtual cast member again, thanks to the popularity of her Palin impression, while other surprise guests have included Chris Parnell, Bill Murray, Mark Wahlberg, Alec Baldwin and Queen Latifah.

Ferrell, a regular on "SNL" from 1995-2006, will in January begin a solo show on Broadway titled "You're Welcome America: A Final Night with George W. Bush."

A regular episode of "SNL" will air Saturday with Jon Hamm ("Mad Men") hosting and musical guest Coldplay.

Hathaway's ex-boyfriend gets 4 1/2 years in scam

NEW YORK (AP)—Anne Hathaway's former boyfriend was sentenced Thursday to 4 1/2 years in prison for cheating investors of millions of dollars by claiming he had Vatican connections that enabled him to buy Roman Catholic Church property at a discount.

"I dishonored my family name and embarrassed the church I love. I'll never be able to wash away that stain, and I will have to live with it the rest of my life," Raffaello Follieri, 30, said through an Italian interpreter before he was sentenced. "I just hope someday those who have been hurt by my actions can forgive me."

U.S. District Judge John G. Koeltl said Follieri had engaged in a significant fraud that hurt investors, will financially ruin him and will cause him to be deported after his prison term. The judge also cited Follieri's "lavish personal expenditures," which prosecutors have said were financed with his investors' money.

Follieri

Follieri said he started off with good intentions, determined to run an honorable business.

"Instead, I made some terrible mistakes," he said. "I always thought I could repair the wrongdoing, but I was wrong."

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Reed Brodsky said Follieri had lied about his education, his background, his wealth and his Vatican connections from the moment he solicited investors through his real estate business, the Follieri Group.

Those investors included Yucaipa Cos., which is controlled by supermarket billionaire Ron Burkle, a close friend of former President Clinton.

Follieri agreed to forfeit $2.4 million when he pleaded guilty last month to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

Koeltl ordered Follieri Thursday to forfeit 15 watches and other precious metals and jewelry. The judge said he would impose a substantial amount of restitution at a future date.

Latest Obama advocates: Opie, Andy Griffith, Fonz

As the election nears, Ron Howard is getting desperate.

In a video posted Thursday on Funnyordie.com, the actor-turned-director reprises his role on "The Andy Griffith Show" as a way to rally support for Barack Obama.

While speaking into the camera, Howard has his beard shaved, dons a youthful red wig and puts on the kind of outfit he would have only worn as Opie Taylor in the `60s.

"I've never done this before and I hope never to do it again, but I guess you could say I'm feeling pretty desperate these days," explains Howard. "So as a demonstration of my sincerity, this is for you America."

Then, in black-and-white, Howard sits down in the woods to talk to "Pa": Andy Griffith. Griffith advises Howard-as-Opie that he'll be able to vote someday, so long as he eludes the butterfly ballot.

That's not the only old TV show revisited by Howard, who years ago traded child stardom for directing movies like "A Beautiful Mind" and this fall's "Frost/Nixon."

Another wardrobe change prepares him to step back into "Happy Days," the beloved show that ran from 1974-1984 in which Howard played Richie Cunningham.

Standing in front of a vintage car and clad in a leather jacket is Henry Winkler, once again with the unmistakable coif - and greaser demeanor - of the Fonze. Winkler, still having some trouble with his pronunciation, tells Howard this election is everyone's chance to right a wr-wr-wrong.

Late-night wrap-up of election jokes

NEW YORK (AP)—Letterman, Leno and Conan were all off Thursday night, but Will Ferrell and Tina Fey were on. Quotes from their "SNL" appearance and other late-night election jokes from Thursday:

■ ■ ■

"I come to you tonight in the midst of a very important election between two very qualified candidates: the hot lady and the Tiger Woods guy. Both candidates are heavily patriotized and display much characterization."—Will Ferrell as President Bush, NBC's "SNL Thursday."

■ ■ ■

"While campaigning for Barack Obama this week, Hillary Clinton said that the Democrats have a new slogan - 'Jobs, baby, jobs' - while Bill Clinton is sticking with his slogan: 'Please, baby, please.'"—Amy Poehler, NBC's "SNL Thursday."

■ ■ ■

"Gallup polled citizens of 70 countries and found that foreigners supported Obama over McCain by nearly four to one. It was an unusual poll, actually 30 percent supported Obama, eight percent supported McCain and the rest supported David Hasselhoff."—Jimmy Kimmel, ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

■ ■ ■

"Sarah Palin should look like this in every picture, like a brand-new, mint-condition porcelain doll. Because I think we can all agree, it is best if Sarah Palin is never taken out of the packaging."—Stephen Colbert on airbrushed photo of Palin in People magazine, Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

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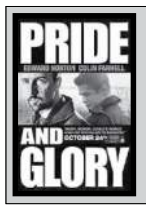
High School Musical 3

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Synopsis
High school seniors Troy and Gabriella are facing the prospect of being separated from one another as they head off in different directions to college. Joined by the rest of the Wildcats, they stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about their future.



Pride and Glory

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:15	

Edward Norton, Colin Farrell
Drama, Crime, Animated • Rated R

Synopsis
An exploration of the personal and professional lives of NYPD officers told through the interwoven lives of a three generation family of cops. Their moral codes are tested when Ray Farrell, one of three sons on the job, investigates a case that reveals an incendiary police corruption scandal involving his own brother.

★ ★ ★

Max Payne

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Igor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Steve Busceni (v), Jay Leno (v)
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Body of Lies

Friday		@	7:20	@
Saturday	1:25	@	7:20	@
Sunday	1:25	@	7:20	
Mon and Tue		@	7:20	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Quarantine

Friday		4:15	@	9:50
Saturday	@	4:15	@	9:50
Sunday	@	4:15	@	
Mon and Tue		4:15	@	

Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Damon 'honored' by Joe the Plumber's shout-out

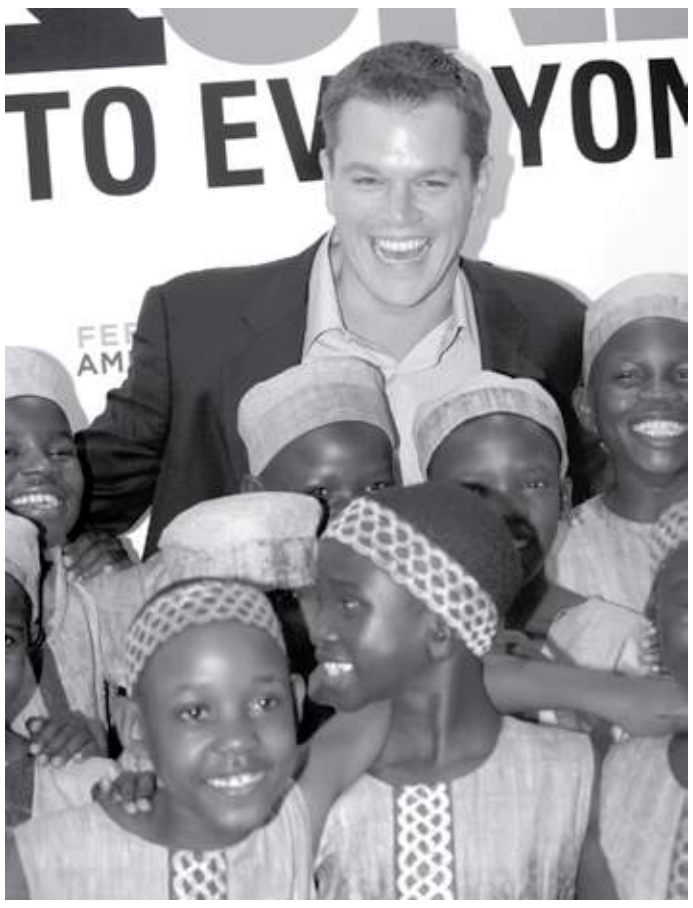
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Matt Damon is honored that the most recent celebrity of the presidential campaign—"Joe the Plumber"—dropped his name in an interview.

"That was a surprise. I hadn't heard that Joe the Plumber dropped my name," Damon said. "I'm honored to be in the little passion play, to be an extra."

The plumber, whose real name is Samuel Wurzelbacher, became an overnight media sensation after he was referred to constantly in the final presidential debate. When the press arrived at his Ohio home, Wurzelbacher, a Republican, said he hoped he wouldn't make a fool of himself with all the attention, "I don't have a lot of pull. It's not like I'm Matt Damon."

Damon—a hardcore Democrat who has spent as much time campaigning for Barack Obama recently than he has acting—was in San Francisco promoting a charity, OneXOne (pronounced One-by-One).

Along with hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean, Damon was promoting the group's work to end hunger and suffering for children in poverty in the U.S. and Africa.



AP

Actor Matt Damon, center, poses for a photograph with members of The African Children's Choir before a fundraising event for the ONEXONE foundation, in San Francisco, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

The actor said he's headed to Florida this weekend to work with the Obama campaign on getting out the vote in a key battleground state. After that, Damon is off to Morocco to finish shooting a movie, but he said he would stay engaged with the Obama campaign.

"I'm sure I'll be on the phone over there after filming every night," he said. "I'll do telephone interviews or whatever they'll have me do. I want to sprint to the finish with the millions of us who really have been desperate for this change."

Damon previously had been openly critical of John McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, calling the campaign's pick for the vice presidency "a disaster." On Thursday, Damon said he would not comment on the Republican ticket.

"The Obama campaign has decided to focus on the positive, and I should be a bigger man and be able to do that with them," Damon said.

AP

Legendary comedian Jerry Lewis dribbles laughs while talking about his touring show in Sydney, Australia, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

82-year-old Jerry Lewis on retirement: 'Why?'

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—These days, the King of Comedy is graying at the temples and sometimes a little wobbly on his feet. But don't ask him about retirement.

"A break? No, why? You got something better to do?" Jerry Lewis told a reporter Friday who asked if the 82-year-old entertainer was contemplating leaving the stage after more than 50 years of performing. "Show me somewhere better than this and I'll consider it."

Lewis was fronting a news conference in Sydney to promote his latest stage show, a retrospective of his career that includes show tunes with a 24-piece band, excerpts from his scores of movies and television shows, and his trademark slapstick comedy. As he walked onto a small stage at a luxury hotel for Friday's news conference, Lewis lost his balance on the stairs and ended up stumbling slightly toward a reporter on the floor. Without missing a beat, and true to ad-libbing form, Lewis grabbed the reporter's hand and started pumping it, saying, "How do you do?"

LeBron James, Jay-Z to host rally for Obama

CLEVELAND (AP)—NBA superstar LeBron James and Grammy-winning recording artist Jay-Z want people to get out early to vote for Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama.

James and Jay-Z will host a rally Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland which will include a free concert by the hip-hop star.

James attended a Cleveland rally earlier this month to encourage people to vote for Obama. He's also contributed $20,000 to a committee supporting the presidential nominee.

Director David Cronenberg is writing a novel

ROME (AP)—Canadian director David Cronenberg is swapping his camera for a pen.

The moviemaker, who was attending the Rome Film Festival on Thursday, said he has written 60 pages of a novel, but besides ruling out that it would be a horror or science fiction, offered few details on the project.

"Based on the pages I have written we found publishers all over the world, which is very terrifying to me," Cronenberg told reporters. "It's at a very delicate phase right now, so I can't really talk about it. It's not like Stephen King, I don't know what it's like but you wouldn't call it a horror or science fiction novel at all. But what it is exactly, well, I don't know yet."

The director, known for "Videodrome," "The Fly," and "A History of Violence," said he had wanted to write a book for 50 years.

Cronenberg also attended a public meeting where he answered questions from fans and moviegoers, one of the fixtures of the Rome festival, whose third edition runs through Oct. 31.

Alan Bennett donates archive to Oxford University

LONDON (AP)—Playwright-screenwriter Alan Bennett is donating his literary archive to Oxford University's Bodleian Library.

The gift includes drafts and manuscripts of plays such as "The Lady in the Van" and "The History Boys" as well as letters and more than 30 years of unpublished diaries.

Much of the material is handwritten. Bennett, 74, said he does not use a computer.

Bennett studied history at Oxford before founding the comic troupe Beyond the Fringe with Jonathan Miller, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. He has written for film, television and the stage. Several of his witty, poignant plays have been turned into movies, including "The History Boys" and "The Madness of King George," which gained him an Academy Award nomination.

AP

In this Sunday, June 11, 2006 file photo, Alan Bennett, author of "The History Boys," poses with his award at the 60th annual Tony Awards in New York.

Librarian Sarah Thomas said Bennett had shown "extraordinary generosity" in giving the papers to the Bodleian.

Bennett said he considered the donation "an obligation repaid." When he was a student at Oxford, university education in Britain was free. Undergraduates now pay up to $4,800 a year in tuition, plus other costs.

"I say with some pride that I had a state education: school, university. None of it cost my parents a penny," Bennett said. "It's a situation which young people in education today can only dream of and this is wrong."

Bennett, often described as a quintessentially English writer, said he wanted his papers to stay in Britain rather than go to "some Midwestern university."

For estranged sister, casual queries are a thorny issue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Shannon," and I had a major falling out years ago and I haven't spoken to her or her family since—except briefly, when we had to make arrangements for our father's funeral three years ago. Shannon is 17 years older than me, married with two grown children. I'm perfectly OK with this arrangement. In fact, I prefer it, and I'm sure they do, too.

The problem is, I recently moved to the same county they live in and have run into several old acquaintances who have asked, "Aren't you Shannon's sister?" or, "How are your nieces doing? I heard one recently had a baby."

Abby, I no longer consider myself to be Shannon's sister. I have no idea how my nieces are or if one of them had a baby. How should I respond to these well-meaning people? If I tell them I no longer have contact with them, it will lead to questions I'd rather not answer. How do I politely deal with this without opening up my personal life for discussion?

SHANNON'S FORMER SISTER

DEAR FORMER SISTER: When asked if you're Shannon's sister, say yes. If you're asked anything beyond that, say you are not close and if they have questions about the baby they should ask the niece who had it. You do not have to air any "dirty laundry." If you are asked other questions that make you uncomfortable, it is perfectly acceptable to smile, say you would rather not discuss it and change the subject.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 33 years. All my life I have been vehemently opposed to having a gun in our house. Our three boys didn't even have toy guns.

I just found out that my husband recently bought a handgun and hid it from me! His reason? "I wanted one." Needless to say, I am furious. Your thoughts, please.

UNDER THE GUN IN MIAMI

DEAR UNDER THE GUN: A few come to mind. Before buying the gun, your husband should have had enough respect for your feelings to discuss it with you so some ground rules could be established. It would be interesting to know why, after all these years, he feels so vulnerable that he thinks he needs a gun in the house.

Also, if you haven't already done so, both you and your husband should take a gun safety course as a precaution against an accident. Check with the police department to see where they are offered so you will know how to safely store and handle the weapon.

It goes without saying that your husband should never point the gun at anyone unless he actually intends to use it—a frightening thought in itself. If your home should be burglarized and the gun stolen, the chances are great that it will be used for criminal activity. If your husband can live with that, then so be it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At school last year there was this guy that I really liked. He was just a friend then, but now I realize that I really like him!

We ride the school bus together, so while we were on the bus I asked him for his phone number. He said, "I don't think so. MORE time for you to bug me?" Now what do I do?

DOWN-HEARTED IN TROUTMAN, N.C.

DEAR DOWN-HEARTED: Recognize that the object of your affection may not be ready for a girlfriend, or may be interested in someone else. When someone tells you "more time for you to bug me," it's time to take three giant steps back and direct your attention elsewhere. This may not be easy to do, but it will save you hours of heartache. Trust me.

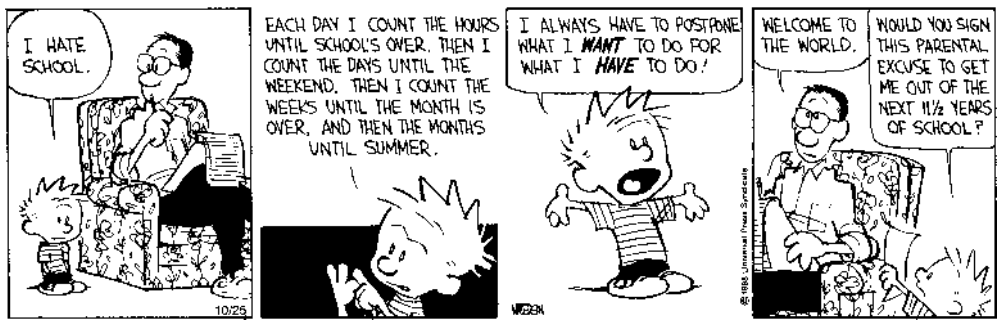
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

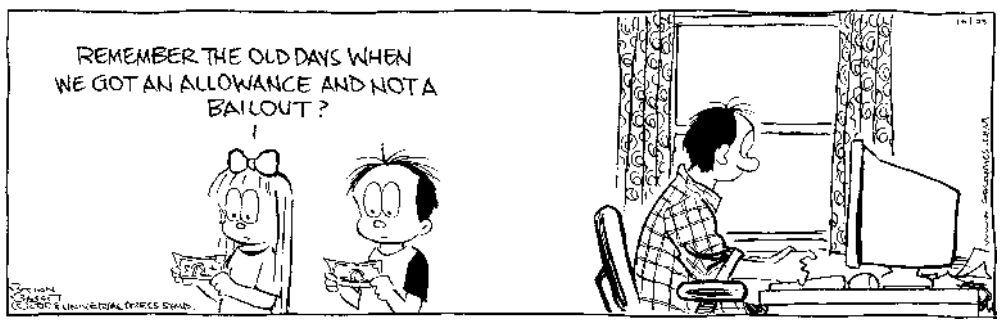

I HATE SCHOOL.
EACH DAY I COUNT THE HOURS UNTIL SCHOOL'S OVER. THEN I COUNT THE DAYS UNTIL THE WEEKEND. THEN I COUNT THE WEEKS UNTIL THE MONTH IS OVER, AND THEN THE MONTHS UNTIL SUMMER.
I ALWAYS HAVE TO POSTPONE WHAT I WANT TO DO FOR WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
WELCOME TO THE WORLD.
WOULD YOU SIGN THIS PARENTAL EXCUSE TO GET ME OUT OF THE NEXT 11½ YEARS OF SCHOOL?
10/25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

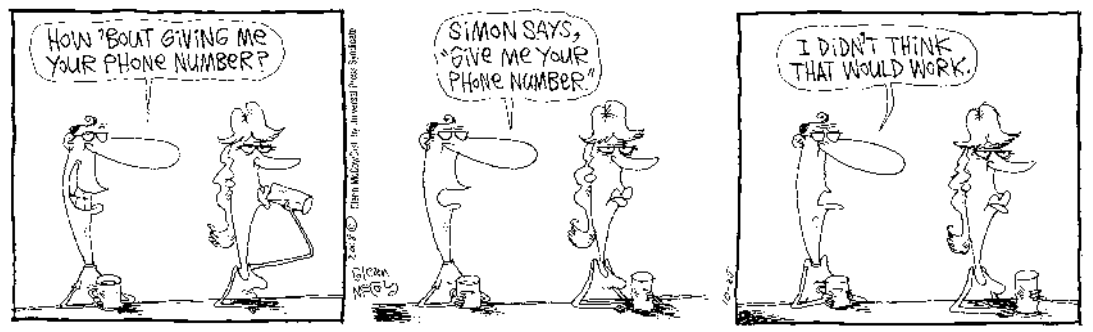
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

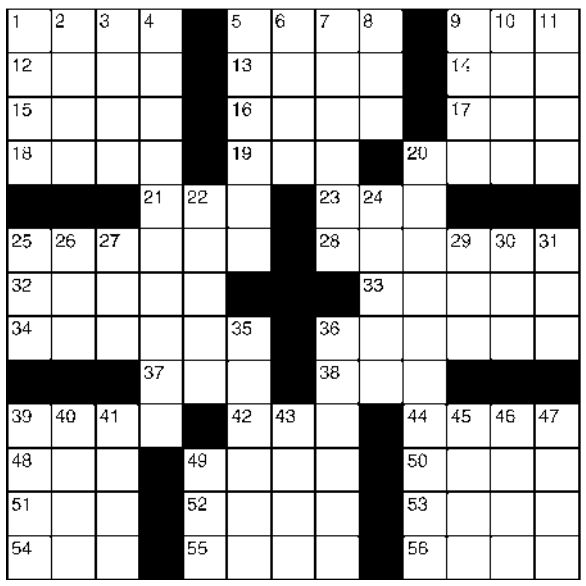
ACROSS
1 Chicken —
5 Spiked club
9 Kitten's comment
12 Enjoying some time off
13 Black, in verse
14 Galena, e.g.
15 Get off the bottle?
16 Priestly vestments
17 Announcer Pardo
18 "— It Romantic?"
19 Condensation
20 Two-piece suit's lack
21 Altar affirmative
23 Storm center
25 Used most of the supply
28 Actress Hunt
32 Wanted-poster datum
33 One-eighty
34 Contacted via BlackBerry
36 Paid under the table
37 Tokyo's old name
38 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)
39 Flex
42 Needlefish
44 Pinnacle
48 Keatsian work
49 Pre-swan
50 "Wind in the Willows" character
51 Past
52 Piscine organ
53 Urban carrier
54 X rating?
55 Pianist Dame Myra
56 Maze goal

DOWN
1 New Zealander
2 Midmonth date
3 Verve
4 Aired
5 Lea
6 Competent
7 Network that suffers during sweeps?
8 Em halves
9 Fashion
10 Cupid's alter ego
11 Departed
20 Starbucks order
22 Medicated
24 — truly
25 Snitch
26 Hearty brew
27 Kibosh
29 Gist
30 Rage
31 Conclusion
35 Pooch
36 Emerald et al
39 Regatta entry
40 Advantage
41 Night light?
43 Shakespeare title starter
45 Wheedle
46 Long skirt
47 Wield a blue pencil
49 "Eewww!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	R	■	S	C	A	R	■	B	A	T	H
E	M	U	■	A	J	R	Y	■	E	R	I	E
N	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	■	L	E	E	R
■	■	■	I	N	T	O	■	T	I	A	R	A
G	E	N	O	A	■	B	R	I	E	■	■	■
L	E	A	N	■	F	L	J	M	F	L	A	M
U	L	T	■	A	R	O	S	E	■	A	L	E
E	Y	E	B	L	A	C	K	■	I	M	P	S
■	■	■	H	U	N	K	■	I	R	I	S	H
A	L	B	U	M	■	■	J	C	O	N	■	■
C	O	A	T	■	D	O	M	I	N	A	T	E
H	U	L	A	■	U	R	A	L	■	T	E	A
E	D	E	N	■	D	E	N	Y	■	E	X	I

Yesterday's answer 10-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Will Harris, 22; Sara Lumholdt, 24; Tracy Nelson, 46; Helen Reddy, 67

Happy Birthday: This is a year of hard work that will require discipline and a strict budget. There will be no room for extravagance, costly mistakes or procrastination. You will have to constantly think matters through and take action. In so doing, you will be acknowledged for your talent and insightful approach. Your numbers are 2, 15, 19, 25, 32, 41, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone looking for answers may cause upset but overreacting will result in problems. Taking too much on is your way of doing things and, if managed properly, can get you out of a tight financial bind. Let your Aries energy work for you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take the pressure being put on you as an omen to back away. Trust your own judgment and don't go over your budget. A change in partnerships will work to your advantage and help you cut your losses. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on putting your talents to good use. Don't get involved with someone who is likely to drain your energy and put a strain on your bank account. Don't promise anything you don't plan on delivering. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Spending a little to increase your assets is a wise idea. A change in the living arrangements or family dynamics must be accepted and dealt with. An older relative will need your assistance. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Although you may feel like playing, you must get any chores out of the way first. A change in your income is possible if you work on perfecting a service you have to offer. Funds will come from an unusual source. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look outside your normal surroundings for the contacts that will benefit you the most. A change of heart is evident and will be the first step in a long process of achieving what you want out of life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The less information you allow others to have, the more you will accomplish without opposition. Love is in the stars and attending an unusual event will bring you in contact with someone interesting. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): There is money to be made but not if you keep spinning your wheels, afraid to move forward. Just do it and don't look back. At some point you have to take your chances and proceed. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Experiment, explore and develop ways to improve your current situation and plans. Setting yourself up for the future doesn't have to put you in the poor house. Forget about doing everything on a large scale. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't listen to someone who wants you to spend more than you have to. Keep things within your reach and build a strong and solid base. Sudden good fortune is apparent if you live by the rules and you follow your original plan. Added security will ease stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Question any partnership that is holding you hostage in one thing or another. Freedom to come and go as you please will make the difference in how far you can get in the shortest amount of time. A new venture will lead to new friendships. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Helping others evolve into who and what they are supposed to be is the first step to granting and getting freedom. You will benefit far more if you are open and supportive. A chance to come into money looks good. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a pillar of strength, courage and honor. You are helpful, spirited and full of surprises. You are quick to respond and will do whatever is necessary to succeed.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		5			7		
								3
4				6	8			
		3		1				8
		5				6		
8				3		4		
			3	2				1
1								
		6			9		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	2	9	1	8	6	4	7
1	9	7	6	4	2	5	3	8
8	6	4	7	5	3	9	1	2
3	7	8	1	6	4	2	9	5
9	2	1	3	8	5	7	6	4
6	4	5	2	7	9	1	8	3
7	8	3	5	9	6	4	2	1
4	5	9	8	2	1	3	7	6
2	1	6	4	3	7	8	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INDONESIA'S RING OF FIRE **Solution: 7 letters**

W	M	I	Y	T	U	A	E	B	R	O	C	K	S	T
C	O	A	S	T	L	U	A	F	C	I	T	O	X	E
S	N	R	G	L	R	L	B	E	M	T	R	E	L	A
E	U	O	S	M	A	L	A	S	T	C	E	T	E	D
B	D	L	I	H	A	N	I	N	(H)	Y	T	E	H	E
S	S	U	F	S	I	E	D	N	G	(S)	S	E	M	P
E	C	E	T	U	S	P	C	O	E	I	(A)	F	S	T
L	I	I	K	I	R	I	L	R	W	T	S	I	I	H
I	S	A	N	I	N	O	M	A	A	O	I	S	M	R
T	Y	V	R	A	R	G	U	E	T	T	D	S	A	E
A	H	A	C	O	P	T	A	S	E	E	E	U	N	M
L	P	L	E	V	E	L	S	M	R	S	S	R	U	M
O	O	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	S	I
V	E	X	P	L	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	H
M	G	N	I	R	E	G	G	I	R	T	F	I	H	S

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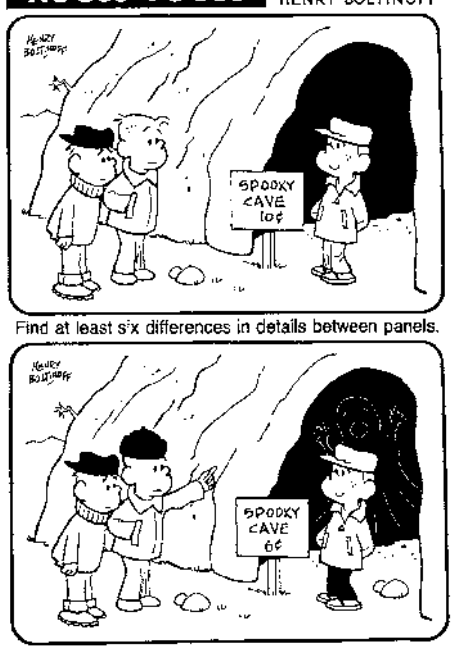
Alert, Ash, Beauty, Blast, Burst, Coast, Craters, Depth, Detect, Disaster, Emission, Environment, Exotic, Exploration, Fault, Fissures, Geophysics, Gods, Heat, Island, Lava, Levels, Line, Magma, Magnitude, Meteorology, Ocean, Panic, Plates, Rocks, Seismic, Shift, Shimmer, Signal, Strike, Sulfurous, Triggering, Tsunamis, Volatile, Volcanic, Water, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Massive

We listened to your requests! TREASURY of the Universe! Wonderword books contain roughly 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order send check or money order for $12.95 each (or $8.25 each for 2 or more) plus $1.50 total each for U.S. handling for the first volume, $1.50 each additional volume to: Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-5730, ext. 6626. Order online at uexpress.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Boy's slacks are black. 3. Ghost is added. 4. Boy is pointing. 5. Stocking hat has been added. 6. Rocks are added in cave.

Wishing Well®

5	4	8	7	4	2	7	6	5	4	6	8	7
T	S	A	B	T	A	E	F	A	A	A	L	G
2	6	8	3	5	2	8	7	8	7	6	7	4
N	M	O	B	K	E	V	I	E	N	I	N	R
2	6	2	5	3	6	7	5	3	2	4	8	6
X	L	C	E	E	Y	E	A	K	I	T	D	H
3	6	2	6	2	7	4	3	2	7	6	2	6
I	A	T	R	I	W	N	N	N	P	M	G	O
5	3	4	5	7	6	5	2	7	2	5	7	4
F	D	E	I	R	N	R	D	O	A	M	J	W
8	7	8	7	6	4	7	5	4	2	4	8	4
O	E	N	C	Y	P	T	S	R	Y	O	E	J
5	4	8	5	4	8	4	5	8	5	4	8	8
T	E	C	A	C	A	T	N	L	D	S	L	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword — TEA PARTY

ACROSS
1 Clean the decks
5 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
9 "Woe is me!"
13 Strength
18 — Krishna
19 Neutral tone
20 Manifest
21 Pointless
22 What the Three Stooges drank
24 What Yo-Yo Ma drank
26 — pole
27 "American Pie" singer
29 Overshoe
30 Range rope
32 Synthetic fiber
34 Brahman or lama
38 Broadway backer
41 Vulgar
43 He may woo ewe
45 Concerning
46 What Sasquatch drank
49 What Queen Victoria drank
52 Oklahoma city
53 Bull in a china shop
54 Exploit
55 Crucifix
56 "Howards —" ('92 film)
57 Had a hunch
60 Nonclerical
62 Assumed name?
64 German chemist Otto
65 Hound or hamster
67 Forbid
68 Outtake
72 On the ball
74 What F. Lee Bailey drank
76 Billow
79 Longed for
81 Address abbr.
82 Exist
84 Tragic fate
85 What's between Serena and Martina
86 Bat wood
87 — clover
90 Paddle
93 Siren
95 Steel support
97 Myriads of moons
98 — Jima
101 What Isaac Newton drank
103 What Martha Stewart drank
106 Reside
107 Eyebrow shape
109 The sky, at times?
110 Beginning
111 Bright inventor?
114 Make Fido fetch
116 Starts a lawn
118 Banyan or baobab
120 Refer (to)
122 — point
125 What Lech Walesa drank
129 What Gregor Mendel drank
132 Saying
133 Take the reins
134 Pennsylvania port
135 Atty.-to-be's ordeal
136 Steven of "Wings"
137 Guam, for one: abbr.
138 Horned vipers
139 Actress Veronica

DOWN
1 "Quiet!"
2 Stick around
3 Singer Guthrie
4 '60s phenomenon
5 French city
6 "Fall back" mo.
7 Aftershocks
8 Former Cong. group
9 For the birds
10 Loewe's lyricist
11 — deco
12 Pencil piece
13 Sun screen
14 First
15 Gangster's gun
16 TV's "— Step Beyond"
17 Singer Chris
20 Supervise
23 Property professional
25 "Alley —"
28 Endured
31 Paul of "A Man for All Seasons"
33 Stork or King
35 Punta del —
36 Actress Anna
37 Warty one
38 Flock o' docs
39 Wordless greeting
40 Grinds
42 — -de-camp
44 Herd word
47 Interstate exit
48 Dwight's competitor
50 Cry of distress
51 "Laser, Lust"
58 Remove a brooch
59 Sault — Marie, MI
61 Pangolin's morsel
63 Dutch export
64 Possessed
65 Citrus cooler
67 Deli choice
68 Kind of clasp
69 Makes money
70 — trip
71 Sleep stage
73 Roman fountain
75 Helium or hydrogen
76 Plant pest
77 — Claire, WI
80 "L'—, c'est moi!"
83 Wells creatures
86 In pieces
87 Feast's alternative
88 City near Provo
89 Produced a cryptogram
90 Eye amorously
91 Parched
92 Sitarist Shankar
94 "Cry — River" ('55 song)
96 "El Libertador"
99 Elfin
100 — bran
102 Trace
104 Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy
105 Teach
108 Kilauea, for one
112 Court cry
113 Teachers' org.
115 "Doe, —, a female . . ."
117 Rapiers
119 Formerly, formerly
121 Perlman of "Cheers"
123 "— Heartache" ('78 hit)
124 Shipbuilding wood
125 Shorten a slat
126 Horatian creation
127 Research site
128 Ideologue's suffix
130 "Tear
131 Demolished dessert

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which book written by Charles Dickens features a young boy named Pip?
2. MUSIC: What was Paul Simon's first solo to hit the Top 10?
3. MYTHOLOGY: Who was Hippolyta in Greek mythology?
4. SCIENCE: Joseph Priestley is credited with discovering what major element in the 18th century?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is another name for an aerialist?
6. AD SLOGANS: What company urged consumers to "Say it with flowers"?
7. TELEVISION: What was the name of Tim Allen's TV show on the comedy "Home Improvement"?
8. CARTOONS: What was the name of the park where Yogi Bear lived?
9. FOOD: What kind of food is gazpacho?
10. RACES: How long is the Iditarod Trail sled dog race?

Answers

1. "Great Expectations"
2. "Mother and Child Reunion"
3. Queen of the Amazons
4. Oxygen
5. Trapeze artist
6. FTD
7. "Tool Time"
8. Jellystone Park
9. Chilled soup
10. About 1,150 miles

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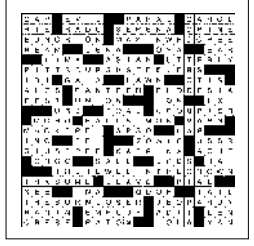
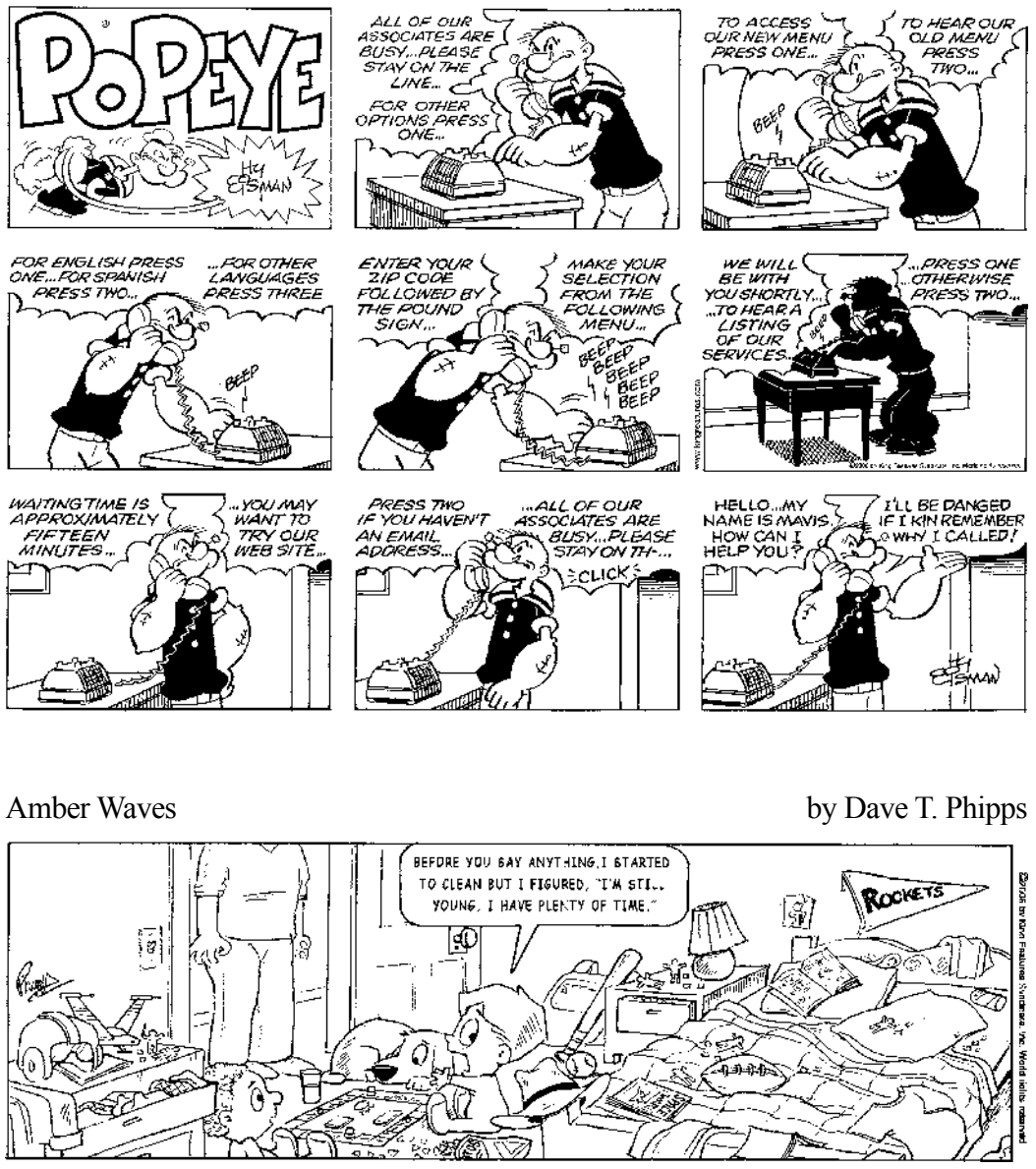
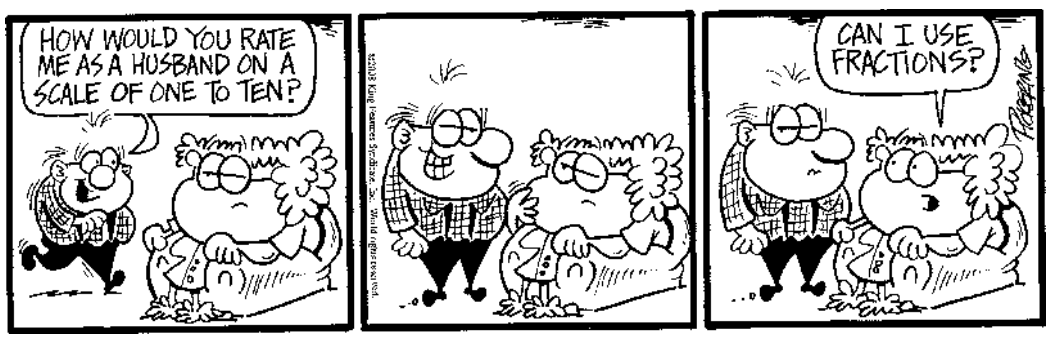
Saturday's Answers

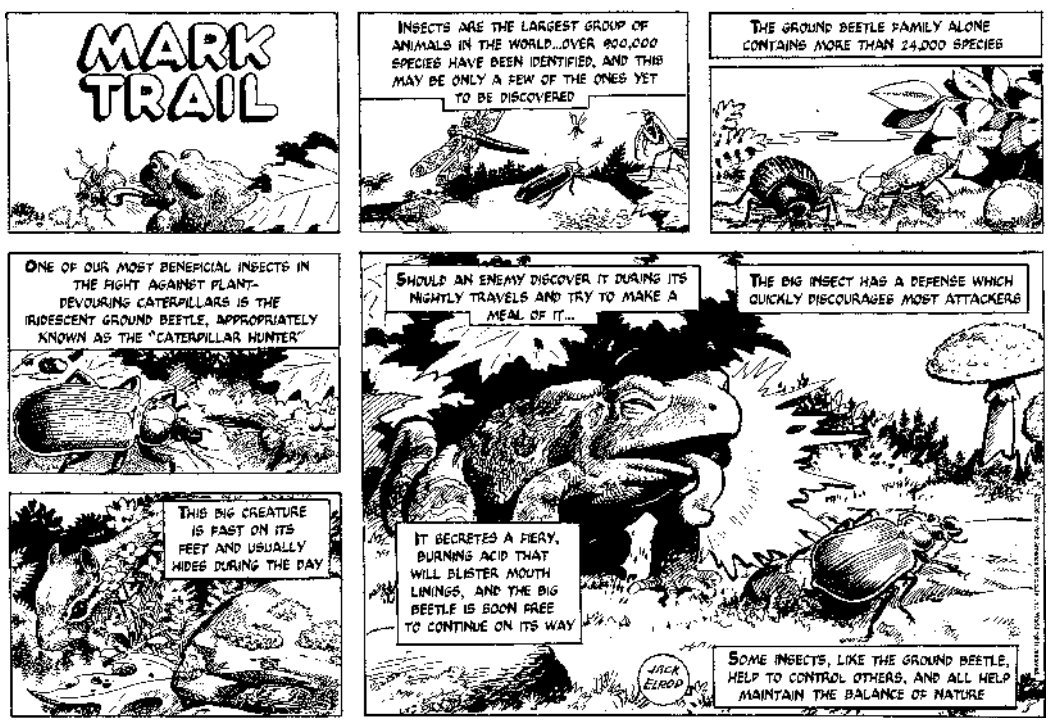


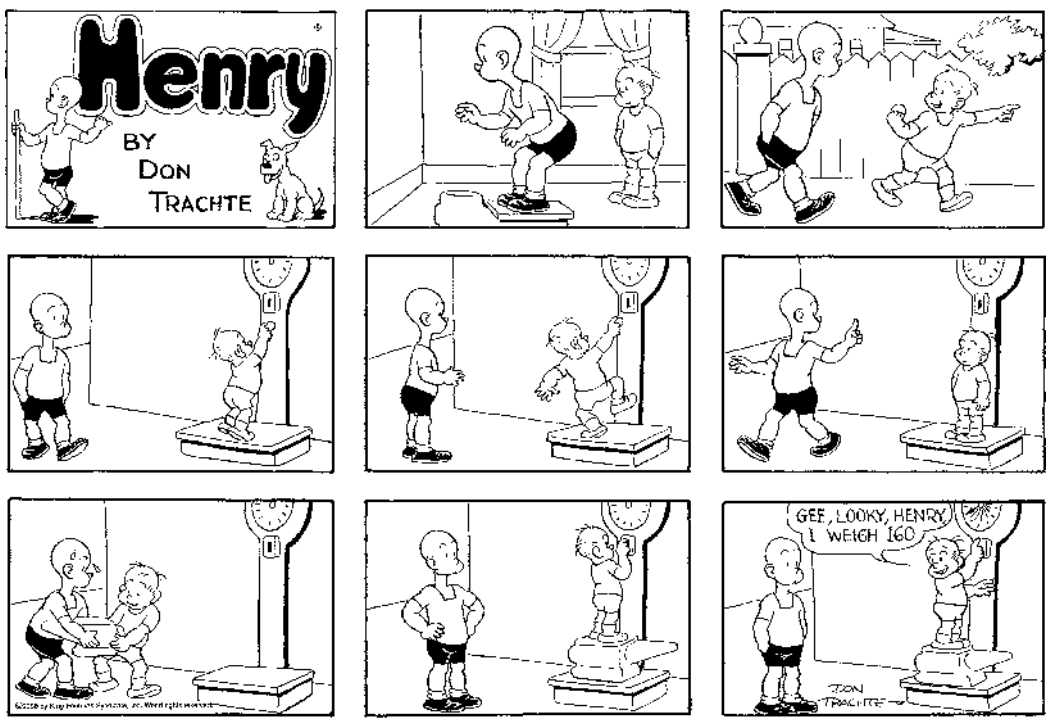

POPEYE
Hy Eisman
ALL OF OUR ASSOCIATES ARE BUSY...PLEASE STAY ON THE LINE... FOR OTHER OPTIONS PRESS ONE...
TO ACCESS OUR NEW MENU PRESS ONE...
TO HEAR OUR OLD MENU PRESS TWO...
BEEP
FOR ENGLISH PRESS ONE...FOR SPANISH PRESS TWO...
...FOR OTHER LANGUAGES PRESS THREE
BEEP
ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE FOLLOWED BY THE POUND SIGN...
MAKE YOUR SELECTION FROM THE FOLLOWING MENU...
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
WE WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY... ...TO HEAR A LISTING OF OUR SERVICES...
...PRESS ONE ...OTHERWISE PRESS TWO...
WAITING TIME IS APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES...
...YOU MAY WANT TO TRY OUR WEB SITE...
PRESS TWO IF YOU HAVEN'T AN EMAIL ADDRESS...
...ALL OF OUR ASSOCIATES ARE BUSY...PLEASE STAY ON TH-...
CLICK
HELLO...MY NAME IS MAVIS. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
I'LL BE DANGED IF I KIN REMEMBER WHY I CALLED!

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
INSECTS ARE THE LARGEST GROUP OF ANIMALS IN THE WORLD...OVER 800,000 SPECIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND THIS MAY BE ONLY A FEW OF THE ONES YET TO BE DISCOVERED
THE GROUND BEETLE FAMILY ALONE CONTAINS MORE THAN 24,000 SPECIES
ONE OF OUR MOST BENEFICIAL INSECTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PLANT-DEVOURING CATERPILLARS IS THE IRIDESCENT GROUND BEETLE, APPROPRIATELY KNOWN AS THE "CATERPILLAR HUNTER"
THIS BIG CREATURE IS FAST ON ITS FEET AND USUALLY HIDES DURING THE DAY
SHOULD AN ENEMY DISCOVER IT DURING ITS NIGHTLY TRAVELS AND TRY TO MAKE A MEAL OF IT...
THE BIG INSECT HAS A DEFENSE WHICH QUICKLY DISCOURAGES MOST ATTACKERS
IT SECRETES A FIERY, BURNING ACID THAT WILL BLISTER MOUTH LININGS, AND THE BIG BEETLE IS SOON FREE TO CONTINUE ON ITS WAY
JACK ELROD
SOME INSECTS, LIKE THE GROUND BEETLE, HELP TO CONTROL OTHERS, AND ALL HELP MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF NATURE



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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CATHAY TAURUS BOUTIQUE

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Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

ENTERTAINMENT

Soul Nights (Every Thursdays) Premiering DJ Bud'zzz.Ladies Beer (can)$2. Tequila Shots $2. From 9:30-12:30am. Drinks, Food, Music 4 the Soul!

WHATZIT Solution: Bull in a china shop

hope, strength and joy!
"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Saipan Tribune

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAG
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia Si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulation

235- NEWS

Rays squeeze Phillies 4-2, tie World Series

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Squeeze plays, a wacky checked swing and a fresh face out of the bullpen. These plucky Tampa Bay Rays pulled out all their tricks at Tropicana Field to tie the World Series.

James Shields stymied the slumping Philadelphia Phillies, rookie David Price got the final seven outs and Tampa Bay rebounded from a rare home loss with a 4-2 victory Thursday night that made it 1-all.

"We came in here knowing it's going to be a tight series," Rays outfielder B.J. Upton said. "Both clubs are a lot alike."

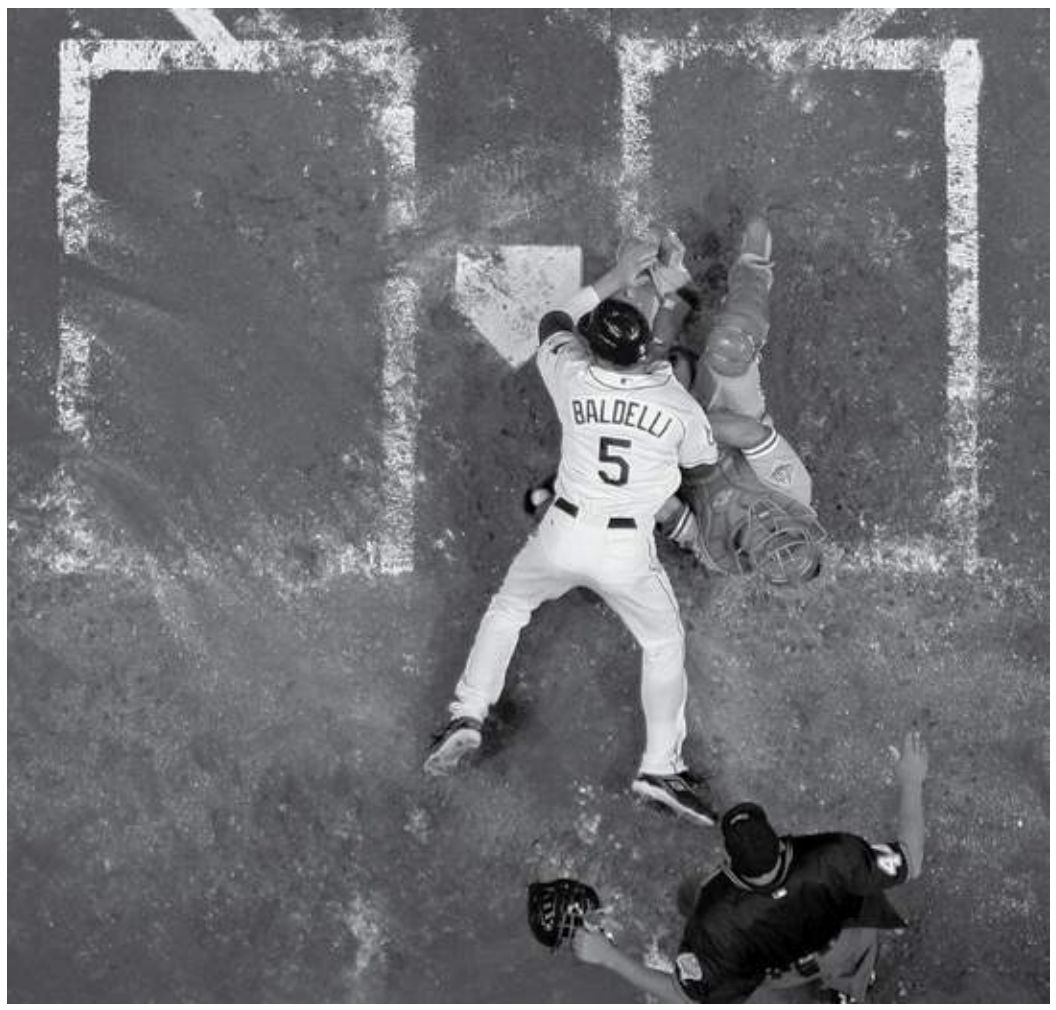
The Rays scored on Jason Bartlett's safety squeeze and built another rally when Rocco Baldelli walked on a checked swing that seemed to confuse players and umpires alike.

Tampa Bay never really got a huge hit, but neither did the Phillies as Jimmy Rollins & crew fell to 1-for-28 with runners in scoring position.

"That might be one of our sloppiest games all year," Philadelphia manager Charlie Manuel said. "I'm concerned about us hitting with guys on base, because it looks like at times we might be trying a little too hard. But we can fix that."

The series shifts to Philadelphia for Game 3 on Saturday night, though rain is in the forecast. ALCS MVP Matt Garza is scheduled to pitch for Tampa Bay against 45-year-old Jamie Moyer, making his World Series debut.

Shields pitched shutout ball into the sixth, working out of trouble just as Phillies ace Cole Hamels did for a 3-2 win in the opener Wednesday night.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Rocco Baldelli (5) is out at home as Philadelphia Phillies' Carlos Ruiz tags him out during the second inning of Game 2 of the baseball World Series in St. Petersburg, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

"I didn't feel too much pressure," Shields said. "The guys in the clubhouse were real relaxed before the game."

The 23-year-old Price, called up in September after he was the top pick in last year's draft, struck out slugger Ryan Howard with two on to end the seventh.

The hard-throwing lefty gave up a pinch-hit homer to Eric Bruntlett in the eighth, then stayed on to close it out against Philadelphia's big boppers.

Carloz Ruiz led off with a double and a pitch from Price appeared to graze Rollins' jersey. But it was not called a hit batter and a frustrated Rollins ended up popping out.

Ruiz scored when third baseman Evan Longoria booted Jayson Werth's grounder for an error, but Price fanned Chase Utley and got Howard on a game-ending grounder to secure Tampa Bay's first ever World Series win.

"Unreal. This is awesome," Price said. "I was nervous."

Philadelphia's lone hit with runners in scoring position was Shane Victorino's infield single in the fourth - and that didn't even produce a run.

Living up to his catchy monicker, "Big Game James," Shields outpitched Brett Myers. Baldelli thwarted a potential Phillies rally with a strong throw, and Tampa Bay took advantage of two costly mistakes by Werth.

"They don't even call me by my first name anymore," Shields said.

Shields usually flourishes at home, where he was 9-2 with a 2.59 ERA during the season. All four of his postseason starts have come at tricky Tropicana Field, including a win over the Chicago White Sox in Tampa Bay's first playoff game.

A 14-game winner during the season, the right-hander looked surprised when he was pulled in the sixth after 104 pitches. He doffed his cap to the crowd, and Dan Wheeler retired Pedro Feliz on an inning-ending grounder with runners at the corners.

The Phillies had a chance to rally in the fifth after putting two on with one out. Utley hit a looper to right that was caught on the run by Baldelli, who fired to first behind Werth for an inning-ending double play.

Back from two seasons derailed by injuries and mitochondrial disorder, a condition that slows muscle recovery and causes extreme fatigue, Baldelli also was involved on a confusing call in the second that helped Tampa Bay make it 3-0.

He checked his swing on a full-count pitch and plate umpire Kerwin Danley immediately raised his right arm as if to call strike three. But then Danley pointed to first base for an appeal, and umpire Fieldin Culbreth signaled safe.

"It was his intention to go to first base for help on a half-swing that he had as ball four," said Mike Port, Major League Baseball's vice president for umpiring. "He just gave a confusing mechanic. But he had called it a ball, and it was ruled no half-swing anyway. So it was just that particular mechanic that caused confusion."

Myers and several Phillies infielders were puzzled, along with Manuel, who took a few steps out of the dugout but didn't argue long.

"I thought he called the guy out," Manuel said.

Port said the umpires would not be available for comment.

With the bases loaded and two outs, Upton hit an RBI single to right. Werth made a strong throw to cut down Baldelli, who crashed into Ruiz but couldn't dislodge the ball.

Before the next inning started, Baldelli rested on one knee in right field.

In the fourth, Bartlett, the No. 9 hitter, drove in Cliff Floyd with a safety squeeze—one pitch after fouling off a suicide squeeze attempt. Rays fans clanged their cowbells, just as they were instructed on the scoreboard in a campy "public service announcement" before the game.

Demoted to the minors in July, Myers was in trouble from the start. He issued a leadoff walk to Akinori Iwamura in the first before Upton sliced an opposite-field single to right. Werth booted the ball for a key error that gave both runners an extra base, and Upton clapped his hands after sliding into second.

Carlos Pena drove in a run with a groundout and the Phillies kept their infield back for Longoria, who made it 2-0 with another grounder.

Shields gave up leadoff doubles in the second and third, but escaped each time as Philadelphia plunged to 0-for-19 with runners in scoring position during the Series.

Victorino's infield single snapped the slide in the fourth, putting runners at the corners with one out. Shields then struck out designated hitter Greg Dobbs for the second time and retired Feliz on a grounder.

Lakers' Kobe Bryant sidelined by swelling in right knee

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant was held out of the Lakers' preseason game Thursday night because of residual swelling in his right knee following a collision with teammate Josh Powell on Tuesday night against Charlotte.

"I've got a little bit of puffiness in the back of the knee. It's just from the trauma of landing the way I landed," Bryant said about an hour before his teammates faced Charlotte again. "So we'll just knock that out and make sure the swelling's out of there, which should be soon. Then I'm OK. After seeing the injury on TV, I'm surprised it's not worse, to be honest."

Bryant, the NBA's reigning MVP, was injured under the Lakers' basket in the second quarter when he went for a rebound and banged knees with Powell.

"I feel fine," Bryant said. "I lifted weights this morning for my legs, did lunges, jumps and all that kind of stuff, and I felt fine. I felt strong. So I'm all right. I just want to get the swelling out. Instead of playing on it tonight and having the swelling still be there and having to manage it. I mean, that's stuff you do during the regular season—not in preseason."

Bryant hopes to play Friday night in the preseason finale against Oklahoma City at Ontario, Calif., and coach Phil Jackson hasn't ruled out that possibility. But Jackson said if Bryant can't go, the club may talk with Bryant about having some diagnostic tests done on the knee. The 10-time All-Star chose not to undergo an MRI exam.

"If I can run, if I can jump, if I can do lunges, leg curls and leg extensions, chances are there's no structural damage," Bryant said, grinning. "You know what I'm saying? If I don't have to walk with more of a bop that I normally walk with, it's fine. So I'm good. There's no need to waste their money."

Lakers guard Sasha Vujacic, who has yet to play in the preseason because of an avulsion fracture in his left ankle, wants to get some minutes in the preseason finale. He was examined by a foot specialist Thursday.

"It feels better," said Vujacic, who signed a three-year, $15 million contract on July 28. "There's no sharp pain, but it's still a little bit irritated. I just have to face it and play with it. Tomorrow I'm going to do the full practice and then we go from there. I'm going to be there and I'm going to be in uniform, which I'm excited about. But if the coach doesn't play me, that's not my decision. We'll see."

Powell missed the game Thursday because of a strained left hamstring.

NBA BRIEFS

Bulls G Hughes waiting for 2nd MRI on shoulder

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Larry Hughes showed up to Bulls practice on Thursday with his arm in a sling, but he won't know how long he'll be out until a second MRI exam Friday. Hughes dislocated his right shoulder Wednesday during an exhibition game in Minnesota and could miss the next six to eight weeks. But Hughes said that timeline could be cut drastically after X-rays and an MRI on Thursday showed no damage. The shoulder felt sore, but wasn't causing him any pain, he added. He'll get a dye injection for his second MRI. "Right now it's OK," he said. "Tomorrow we'll have a better feel after I take another test." Hughes was hurt in the third quarter of Chicago's 85-75 win, when his arm was caught under Minnesota's Mike Miller while the two dove for a loose ball.

Cavs release Ronald Dupree

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers released forward Ronald Dupree on Thursday and gave their final roster spot to forward Jawad Williams, a Cleveland native. The 6-foot-9 Williams averaged 5.5 points in four exhibition games with the Cavs. The former Lakewood St. Edward star won a national title while at North Carolina. He beat out five other free agents to make the team. The 25-year-old Williams was helped by rookie Darnell Jackson breaking his wrist. Jackson is expected to be sidelined for a month. Dupree averaged 6.5 points in four preseason games. The Cavs also kept free-agent forward Tarence Kinsey, who played in Turkey last season.

Blazers waive F Luke Jackson, C Steven Hill

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers waived forward Luke Jackson and center Steven Hill on Thursday, trimming their roster to 15 players. Jackson appeared in three preseason games, averaging 5 points, 3.3 rebounds and 1.3 assists. Hill, a 7-foot rookie out of Arkansas, saw limited time in three preseason games. The Blazers, who close out the preseason at Utah on Thursday night, open the regular season against the Lakers in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Pacers waive forwards Austin Croshere, Josh Davis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers waived veteran forwards Austin Croshere and Josh Davis on Thursday, cutting their roster to 15 players. Croshere, a first-round draft pick by Indiana in 1997, played nine seasons for the Pacers and averaged 7.5 points a game. He was traded to Dallas in 2006 for Marquis Daniels and played for Golden State last season. Davis is a three-year journeyman who has averaged 2.5 points for Atlanta, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Houston and Phoenix.

Browns GM defends suspension of Winslow

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Cleveland Browns general manager Phil Savage emotionally defended his decision to suspend tight end Kellen Winslow, who claims the club tried to cover up his staph infection and has appealed his one-game ban without pay.

Savage suspended Winslow for his disparaging comments and behavior following Sunday's loss in Washington. Winslow, who agreed to keep his medical condition private, revealed he had staph and said the Browns, who have had a high number of staph cases in recent years, still have a problem with infections.

Insisting "this is not K2 vs. Phil Savage," the GM depicted Winslow as selfish and outlined the team's reasons for suspending one of its stars.

"The Browns are bigger than one person, bigger than (owner) Randy Lerner, bigger than (coach) Romeo Crennel, bigger than me and bigger than any player on this team," Savage said during his weekly appearance on WTAM radio. "We couldn't and won't allow one person to tear down the organization, so we had to do something."

Winslow appealed his suspension on Wednesday. His case will be heard by an arbitrator on Tuesday in Cleveland. Per the NFL collective bargaining agreement, the arbitrator must issue a decision within five days of the hearing and the ruling is final.

If he wins his appeal, Winslow, who will serve his suspension Sunday when the Browns play at Jacksonville, could recoup the $235,294—his one-game paycheck—he was docked with the suspension.

In his first public comments since imposing Winslow's suspension, an animated Savage expressed his disappointment at the Pro Bowler's assertion the team hid his illness. He was also offended by Winslow's charge that Savage didn't check on him while he spent three days at the Cleveland Clinic.

Savage countered Winslow's claims by recounting the team's support after the player was seriously injured in a near-fatal motorcycle accident in 2005.

"The comments really called into question the integrity of our medical staff and the organization as a whole," Savage said. "To compromise that trust after the Browns had stood by Kellen through the motorcycle episode and knowing without question that we have done everything in our power to combat the staph infection problem—it showed a lack of professional restraint."

Moments before Winslow criticized the Browns, he and Savage spoke in a hallway outside Cleveland's locker room at FedEx Field. Savage said the meeting was not heated as had been reported, and that he and Winslow shook hands before parting ways.

When Winslow revealed he had staph, breaking an agreement with the Browns not to disclose his illness, Winslow said he was speaking out to protect his teammates' health.

At least six Browns have contracted staph since 2005. The club maintains it has been proactive in keeping the training facility clean, and on Wednesday, several Browns, including three captains, said the team has educated them on the risks of staph and preventive measures to avoid being infected.

Savage suggested Winslow's condition was not isolated to staph. Winslow was hospitalized on Oct. 9 and released three days later. He missed the Browns' upset of the New York Giants on Oct. 13 before returning for last week's game against the Redskins despite practicing once.

Medical privacy laws preclude teams from disclosing a player's illness without permission, and while Winslow was sidelined, the Browns said they were abiding by his wishes to conceal his condition.

"From a legal standpoint, HIPAA laws and such, we can't even reveal the nature of someone's illness without their approval of it, and due to the nature of this particular situation, it seemed that the people involved wouldn't want it out there," Savage said. "Our hands are tied in certain situations on these medical things, and it was all agreed upon that we will keep this under wraps; it's a non-football illness, it occurred during the bye week and we've got a game to play."

Winslow's high-profile agent, Drew Rosenhaus, has been shockingly quiet during the ordeal. Rosenhaus has not returned a phone call or e-mail from the AP seeking comment on his client's situation.

Rosenhaus made his own radio appearance in Miami, and said he does not agree with the Browns' decision to suspend Winslow.

"In general, I believe suspending a player should be conduct very detrimental, very serious, something where there's been a pattern where a player has not followed notice and warnings, things of that nature," Rosenhaus said. "We'll see what the outcome is."

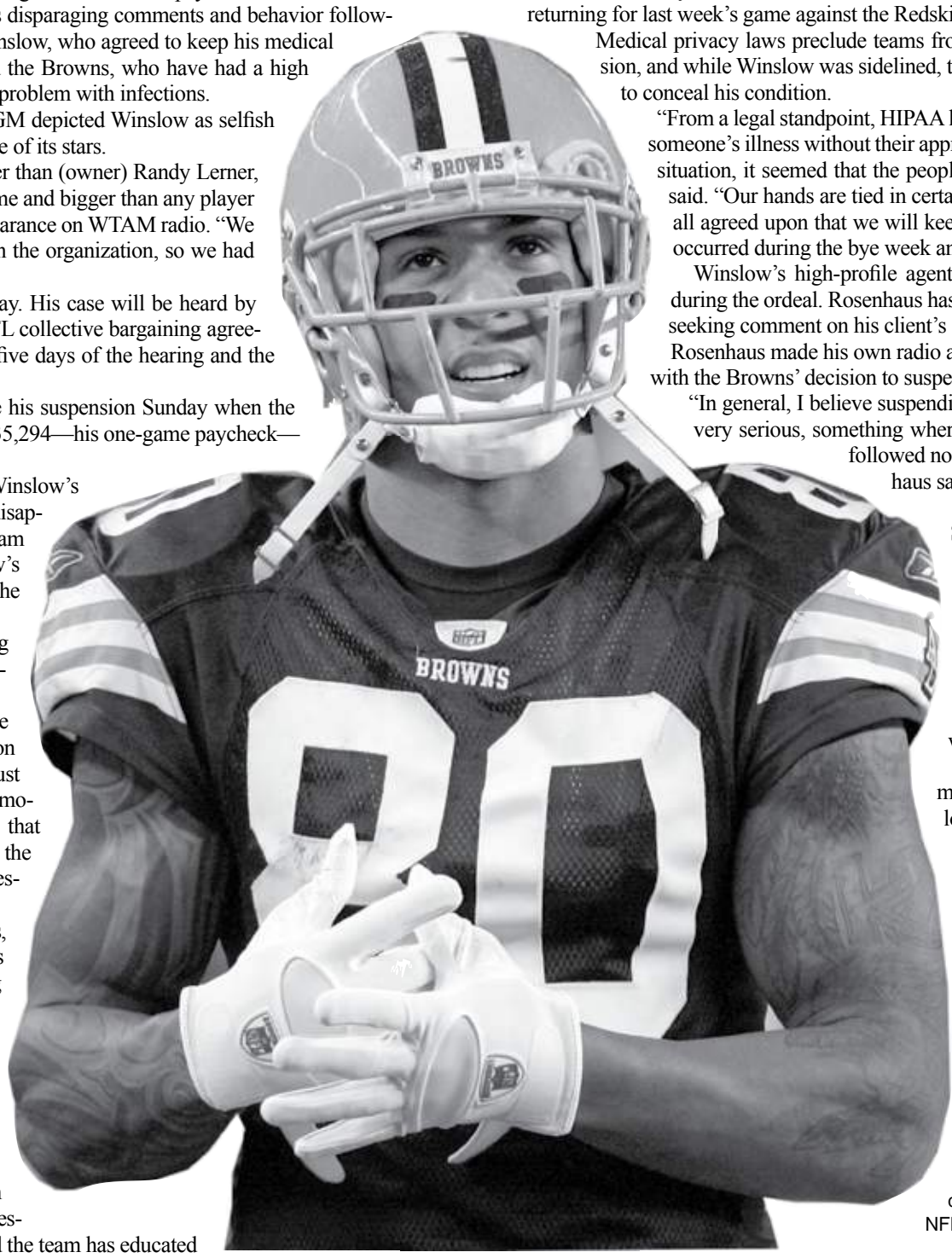
Crennel denied an NFL Network report that Savage tried to trade Winslow last week before the deadline.

"There have been some inquiries and that happens all the time with players," Crennel said. "A team might call and say, `Hey, what about so and so? Are you guys interested in doing anything?' That might have happened, I'm not going to say that it did or didn't, but we were not actively trying to trade him."

Earlier this week, Winslow expressed in a statement his desire to stay with the Browns "for a very long time" and was confident he and the team can move forward together.

Savage hopes Winslow keeps his word.

"If he is willing to do the things that he said publicly that he is willing to do, we'll gladly accept him back," Savage said. "Kellen Winslow is a talented player that can help us win. I feel like once this passes, it's over with and we're going to move on. We've got to do what's best for the team, and the people on the team have to do what's best for the team and not necessarily what's best for themselves."



In this Sept. 14, 2008 photo, Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow looks at the scoreboard during a 10-6 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers in an NFL football game in Cleveland.

AP

LaBelle, Mallinger share Frys lead at 63

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—The shootout is on in the desert.

Doug LaBelle II and John Mallinger shot 7-under 63s on Thursday to share the first-round lead in what promises to be a flurry of birdies at the Frys.com Open.

"It's fun to make a lot of birdies," said LaBelle, who lives in north Phoenix, a 10-minute drive from the tournament. "We know we're going to have to make some to have a chance to win."

Richard Johnson, the 2007 Nationwide Tour earnings leader who has struggled in his first PGA Tour season, was one shot back at 64.

Aaron Oberholser was among six players to shoot 65s under ideal conditions—cloudless and temperatures in the mid-80s, on the 7,125-yard Raptor Course at Grayhawk Golf Club in north Scottsdale.

Oberholser, winner of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am two years ago, is in his second tournament after recovering from two surgeries on his left wrist in a span nine months.

"I don't know if this is going to give me great confidence," he said, "but it's definitely building in that direction."

Chris Stroud, Mathias Gronberg, J.J. Henry, Marco Dawson and Todd Demsey also opened with 65s.

Defending champion Mike Weir shot a 66. Last year in the inaugural event, the Canadian star won his first tour title since February 2004, beating Australia's Mark Hensby by a stroke.

The Frys event, with a first prize of $900,000, features players scrambling to move up on the rankings, many of them trying to secure a tour card for next season.

The Fall Series is an opportunity for them to gather confidence as well as money.

"There's a lot of players out here that have a ton of ability, a lot more than me," Stroud said, "and if you can just get your mind in the right position, and know what you're doing every day, you can do pretty much anything, I believe.

Mallinger, in his second season on the tour, has five career third-place finishes, including two third-place ties this year. The most recent was last week at the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospital for Children Open in Las Vegas. He ranks 64th on this year's money list.

Playing the back nine first with an afternoon tee time, he made the turn at 5-under 30. He finished with eight birdies and one bogey.

"It's going to be a shootout," he said. "You take last week, I think I was 22 under and I didn't win the golf tournament. You have to make a lot of birdies these last tournaments."

Playing the back nine first, LaBelle had birdies on three of the last four holes to move in to a tie for the lead just as darkness fell. He said he hadn't played this well since he was in a five-way tie for the lead halfway through this year's FBR Open, held just down the road from Grayhawk. He's 171st on the money list.

"It's just nice to hit some good shots, make some putts and shoot a nice score," LaBelle said. "It's been a long time since I've done that."

Johnson, in the first group to tee off at 6:45 a.m., ranks 204th on the PGA Tour money list. His best finish was tied for 27th Oct. 5 at the Turning Stone Resort Championship, the second of the tour's seven fall series events.

He was a two-time champion last year on the Nationwide Tour, earning $445,421. In 28 PGA events this year, he's won $188,324.

"It hasn't been a good year for me," Johnson said. "I don't know, I'm fighting myself a lot out there. I get yelled at by my couch who was just saying this week `You're on the Tour, enjoy it!'"

Ballesteros brain tumor is cancerous

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Seve Ballesteros' brain tumor is cancerous and he will undergo another operation to relieve pressure caused by swelling and bleeding that have recently developed.

The remaining parts of the malignant tumor, located in a very deep part of the brain, will be removed in Friday's procedure.

La Paz Hospital said Thursday that the surgery is "of great complexity."

Three doctors will operate on Ballesteros. Javier Heredero, head of the hospital's neurosurgery unit, will be accompanied by neurosurgeons Marcelino Perez Alvarez and Alberto Isla. The operation is due to begin early in the morning and is expected to last until the afternoon.

The 51-year-old Ballesteros was in stable, but serious, condition before the operation, the hospital said.

Based on an analysis of cells already moved, the tumor is classified as an oligoastrocytoma, a type that affects "cells that cover and protect the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord," the hospital said.

Ballesteros was admitted to the hospital Oct. 6, and 10 days later a sizable part of the tumor was taken out.

Part of his skull was removed—a procedure known as decompressive craniotomy—to allow room for a swelling brain to expand. Doctors said it was not uncommon after such complex operations.

Ballesteros, who won three British Opens and two Masters, briefly lost consciousness while at Madrid's international airport Oct. 6.

In a personally signed statement from his hospital bed, Ballesteros said he faced the "hardest challenge of my life."

Ballesteros, who won a record 50 tournaments on the European Tour, retired last year because of a long history of back pain and has since concentrated on golf course design.

Ballesteros transformed European golf. After the Ryder Cup was expanded to include continental Europe in 1979, Ballesteros helped beat the United States in 1985 to begin two decades of dominance. He also captained Europe to victory in 1997 at Valderrama, Spain.

Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal made one of the most formidable partnerships in Ryder Cup history, with 11 wins, two losses and two halves.

KOD semis set Sunday at Dandan field

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The semifinal games of the Budweiser King of the Diamonds featuring the Top 4 teams after four qualifying tournaments will be played this Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Dandan Ballfield.

Shell Marianas, winner of the first two qualifying rounds, will meet the winner of the wildcard game for the first semifinal game starting at 10am.

Before that, the wildcard game was being played as of presstime last night between Total Chaos and SUFA.

The other semifinal game on Sunday will be between Natibu and Saipal. This game will start at 11am.

Natibu placed second behind Shell Marianas in the second qualifying round to earn outright entry into the Final Four.

Saipal, on the other hand, became the only team to break the juggernaut of Shell Marianas, beating them twice in the elimination round and championship game to top the third qualifying tournament last Sept. 13-14 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The winner of the two semifinal matches will vie for the lone ticket to the Budweiser Tournament of Champions to be hosted by Palau next month.

Shell Marianas, then known as No Ka Oi, owns the titles of the tournament the past three years, in Palau in 2005, Saipan in 2006 and Guam in 2007.

The game is open to all legal Saipan residents, 18 or older, except the employees of Marpac Inc.

A team can have maximum of 15 players to include two or more females on the roster plus a manager and a coach.

Homeruns will be called an automatic out.

Budweiser initiated this tournament to bring all the best teams in Micronesia.

The trophy will revolve around the region but will be kept for good if a team wins it three times in a row.

That was why No Ka Oi kept the first revolving trophy and a new one will be up for grabs when the tournament shifts back to Palau.

4 Corners widens lead in darts tourney

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Utopia 4 Corners continued to amass points and emerged as the best among the 41 teams competing in six divisions of the ongoing Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

The 4 Corners widened their lead in the A-Division by piling up 106 wins against 47 losses, according to the latest results.

D'Pirates D'Destroyers lag way behind in second place in the same division with 87 wins and 66 losses after the Oct. 16 matches that were held in different venues.

VFW Major Leaks are third (82-71), Sierra's Shakem Up fourth (74-79), Vargas Snipers fifth (67-86), and Primo's Seki D'Umber (43-110).

In the Masters Division, the Black Stallions remained in the lead with a 90-63 win-loss record but the Oleai D'Companeros cut the lead and stayed in second place at 86-87.

The Oleai Heavy Bombers are in third at 75-78, while VFW Chubby Wockees are fourth at 55-98.

Primo's Pay Day Time is now leading the eight-team Tuesday B Division by two wins (81-54) over former leader Krystal 80 Proofers and Primos Nauhgty Boys, who have similar 79-56 marks.

The other teams' records in the same division are Oleai No Fear (74-61), Jonny's Insane Dart Posse (72-63), Jonny's Fujin (67-68), D'Pirates B'Destroyers (56-79), and Jonny's Samurai (32-103).

In Thursday B division, Naked Fish Unagas maintained their lead at 72-48, while Coral Reef Barracuda moved to second place with 68-52.

In third spot was Naked Fish Hafa Mas (64-56), fourth was Jonny's Asian Dart Heads (64-56), and fifth VFW Clubmates (59-61).

Rounding out the team standings are Primo's No Expectations (59-61), Gaia Bonzai (55-65), Remington Dart Vador (49-71), and Coral Reef Shark Attack (48-72).

In the ladies division, Oleai B-52's remained in the lead with 65-40 but Naked Fish Shooters closed the gap by just a win and could easily manage to turn the tide in the next round with their current slate of 64-26.

In contrast, Jonny's.Com and the rest of the field were way behind with its 48-72 in third place. Coral Reef Sting Rays were fourth with 44-61 and Coral Reef Mermaids fifth with 34-56.

Not included in the team standings for the ladies division were the results of the match between Naked Fish Shooters and Coral Reef Mermaids on Oct. 17.

MIGS

From Page 28

sions converted those turnovers into points.

The third quarter ended with MIGS ahead by 16, 76-60. The lead never went down to 12 markers, but despite a big lead, the tireless crew of MIGS didn't letup, preventing AON from setting up its half court offense and frustrating the Insurers' big men in the paint.

MIGS had the win in the bag going into the last two minutes of the game as it led by 21, 97-76. But MIGS had to wait a little longer before getting its third win and AON had to prolong its agony, as second motions and a couple of technical fouls slowed the game down.

Despite a heated game, in the end both teams met at mid-court and shook hands.

AON absorbed back-to-back loses and dropped to a 1-2 record. Its lone win was against Century Insurance during the league's opening game, 103-87.

Jon Lim paced AON with 28 points, while Marlon De Dios and Jason Bahillo chipped in 15 and 11 markers, which when combined were still less than Cadagat or Lerio's outputs.

The 23-point victory against AON was MIGS third lopsided win in as many games. It debuted with a 114-77 thrashing of San Miguel Light and followed it up with a 30-point victory over Diamond Auto Care making MIGS the early favorite in the league.

MIGS 106 – Lerio 33, Cadagat 31, Bernardo 18, Moises 10, Capalad 6, Hugos 4, Pantaleon 3, Diyco 3

AON Insurance 83 – Lim 28, De Dios 15, Bahillo 11, Capuyon 6, Factor 6, De Guzman 5, Mendoza 3, Abuy 3, Apelo 2, Catalla 2, Eclevia 2, Pantola 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 40-35, 76-60, 106-83.

ACME

From Page 28

after six matches.

Then, Acme Roofing will play MHS Peers at the end of the single round-robin elimination games on Nov. 6.

The Peers are unpredictable and could score a big upset against Acme Roofing.

They just came off with a straight sets victory over Thai One On, 21-18, 21-19, 21-15, last Tuesday night.

That win gave the Peers their fifth win. They moved to solo third place with a 5-2 slate.

Another team capable of turning the tide is second-running Enyophace, the leader in sets won of 19, which is one more than Acme Roofing's 18. The Peers have 14.

Despite the absence of its crisp spiking and strong serving frontliner in lawyer Bruce Berline, Enyophace posted its fifth straight against Champ On with an easy 21-11, 21-14, 21-6 scoring binge.

Melody Matson steadied the team with her booming serves and helped her team run its win streak to five. Enyophace is now 6-1 behind the pacesetting Acme Roofing, while Camp On absorbed its sixth defeat in seven outings to stay in ninth spot.

Off Twice kept its position in sixth place, 4-4, after going through the eye of the needle.

The team of tournament coordinator Lindsey Sosovec rallied from a first set loss to score a victory in the most grueling battle so far this year with the final score of 20-22, 21-19, 21-19.

Thai One On skidded from third to fifth place with a 4-3 record after that bitter defeat.

THE CRANK

From Page 28

standing local grapplers.

It would be a heavyweight slugfest between Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Team Zalazka's Ton "XCalibur" Nekaifes.

Two months ago, Fitial bagged a gold medal in a tournament in Guam, which he considers his biggest ever as an MMA fighter.

Nekaifes is a 280-lb. heavyhitter.

This event was originally scheduled for Dec. 6 but because the Saipan World Resort is fully booked on that date, organizers decided to move it to Dec. 12 at the Taga Hall of the hotel.

Chris "No Luv" Laayug of Trench Tech will face Leroy Sablan of Marianas Elite in one of the undercards.

Laayug just came off a unanimous decision victory against Derrick "Pinchi' Rangmar in the main event of the Rites of Passage V last Sept. 27 to improve his record to 4-1.

Sablan is an experienced fighter with a 3-2 record.

"That would be a good fight," Alvarez said.

Other fighters included in the fight card are Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa and Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu from Guam.

"We plan on ending the year with a bang," Alvarez said.

TOTAL

From Page 28

and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

The bevy of activities kicks off with a musical performance by three members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray band.

This will be followed by back-to-back exhibition games between the CNMI Men's Junior National Team and Ol' Aces in the morning and the CNMI Women's Junior National Team and another team in the afternoon.

In between, there will be an hour-long clinic where basketball enthusiasts can pick up tips from coaches of the CNMI Junior National Team.

In the afternoon, members of NMIVA will conduct an exhibition game and run a clinic for those who would like to simply learn the basics or to improve their game. NMBF will also hold a clinic from 4pm to 5pm.

Coca-Cola will also introduce Glacéau Vitamin Water to the public with a free sampling of all six flavors available on Saipan—Energy, Revive, Focus, Power, XXX, and Essential.

All day long, Coca-Cola and Power 99 will have trivia contests. Participants who give the correct answers will win Coca-Cola Total Sports Experience event T-shirts.

A Basketball Free Throw Contest would also be held. The winners may bring home sports items courtesy of All-Star Sporting Goods and Boarderline.

Those who are interested in participating in Coca-Cola Total Sports Experience and are at least 18 years old will be required to sign a waiver at the entrance. Participants below 18 years old may join with their parents or guardians signing on the Coca-Cola Total Sports Experience waiver.

Organizers are also encouraging the public to come down and help raise funds for each sports organization. Supporters of the CNMI Junior National Team, Ol' Aces, NMIVA, and NMBF are encouraged to call the Coca-Cola office at 235-2653 for more information on the fund-raising opportunities. ***(PR)***

SPORTS BRIEFS

FRYS.COM OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Frys.com Open, a $5 million (4 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,125-yard, par-70 Raptor Course at Grayhawk Golf Club

FIRST ROUND

John Mallinger	33-30	63
Doug LaBelle II	30-33	63
Richard Johnson	31-33	64
Chris Stroud	32-33	65
Mathias Gronberg	33-32	65
Arron Oberholser	33-32	65
J.J. Henry	34-31	65
Marco Dawson	31-34	65
Todd Demsey	32-33	65
Bill Haas	32-34	66
Robert Garrigus	33-33	66
Jason Day	33-33	66
Mike Weir	33-33	66
Steve Elkington	32-34	66
Y.E. Yang	34-32	66
Chris Riley	35-32	67
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-33	67
Omar Uresti	31-36	67
Kevin Sutherland	37-30	67
Dustin Johnson	34-33	67
Jim McGovern	35-32	67
Steve Allan	34-33	67
Aaron Baddeley	34-33	67
Lee Janzen	36-31	67
Robert Gamez	34-33	67
Chad Collins	34-33	67
Rocco Mediate	33-35	68
Sean O'Hair	33-35	68
Kevin Streelman	32-36	68
Charles Warren	33-35	68
Ron Whittaker	36-32	68
Scott Sterling	36-32	68
Tommy Gainey	33-35	68
Michael Allen	31-37	68
Kevin Na	33-35	68
Brad Elder	35-33	68
Tag Ridings	37-31	68
Nick O'Hern	35-33	68
Brian Gay	32-36	68
George McNeill	35-33	68
Jeff Quinney	34-34	68
Charlie Wi	35-33	68
Olin Browne	37-31	68
Mathew Goggin	36-33	69
Glen Day	35-34	69
Davis Love III	34-35	69
Billy Mayfair	35-34	69
Steve Flesch	33-36	69
Woody Austin	35-34	69
Nick Watney	32-37	69
Mark Wilson	36-33	69
Bo Van Pelt	32-37	69
Brenden Pappas	33-36	69
Rich Beem	34-35	69
Cameron Beckman	35-34	69
Justin Bolli	35-34	69
Jin Park	35-34	69
Mark Hensby	33-36	69
Michael Letzig	36-33	69
Bob Tway	34-35	69
Bubba Watson	35-34	69
Frank Lickliter II	35-34	69
Scott Verplank	34-35	69
Todd Hamilton	34-35	69
Billy Andrade	36-33	69
Shane Bertsch	35-34	69
Peter Lonard	35-34	69
Paul Claxton	35-34	69
John Riegger	37-33	70
Tim Clark	37-33	70
Chez Reavie	37-33	70
Paul Goydos	35-35	70
Jeff Maggert	35-35	70
Rod Pampling	36-34	70
James Driscoll	36-34	70
Ryan Armour	34-36	70
Charley Hoffman	34-36	70
Cody Freeman	36-34	70
John Douma	34-36	70
Ryan Moore	35-36	71
Brad Adamonis	36-35	71
Pat Perez	34-37	71
Bob Estes	35-36	71
Brett Quigley	35-36	71
Jason Dufner	37-34	71
Kyle Thompson	37-34	71
Jonathan Byrd	35-36	71
Harrison Frazar	36-35	71
Nick Flanagan	37-34	71
Brian Davis	36-36	72
Jesper Parnevik	36-36	72
Steve Lowery	36-36	72
Rory Sabbatini	34-38	72
Kent Jones	36-36	72
Tommy Armour III	37-35	72
J.P. Hayes	38-34	72
Matt Jones	35-37	72
Patrick Sheehan	35-37	72
Joe Ogilvie	38-34	72
Jeff Gove	35-37	72
Tim Herron	35-37	72
Cliff Kresge	35-37	72
Scott McCarron	35-37	72
Michael Sim	36-36	72
Travis Perkins	37-35	72
Jason Allred	38-34	72
Tim Petrovic	37-36	73
Eric Axley	38-35	73
Jay Williamson	37-36	73
Martin Laird	35-38	73
Bob Sowards	37-36	73
Craig Kanada	36-37	73
Notah Begay III	36-37	73
Jason Gore	36-37	73
Kirk Triplett	35-38	73
Ryan Palmer	35-38	73
Kenneth Ferrie	37-36	73
Brett Rumford	36-37	73
Vaughn Taylor	39-35	74
John Merrick	38-36	74
Daniel Chopra	38-36	74
Alejandro Canizares	36-38	74
Bob Heintz	37-38	75
David Lutterus	39-36	75
Tony Rohlik	37-38	75
Parker McLachlin	38-39	77
Jon Mills	37-40	77
Nathan Green	42-36	78
Jimmy Walker	41-39	80
Kevin Stadler	38-43	81
Ted Purdy	DQ	
Dean Wilson	WD	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Standings

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Acme Roofing	8	0	475	346	18
Enyophace	6	1	444	282	19
MHS Peers	5	2	401	363	14
Karakuchi	4	3	404	362	12
Thai One On	4	3	381	345	11
Off Twice	4	4	434	414	11
Kimoichi	4	4	420	391	12
MHS Oakies	3	4	364	378	10
Champ-on	1	6	276	409	6
MHS 67 Doh-Fins	0	6	251	368	3
MHS Serves Up!	0	6	209	582	1

KOD semis set Sunday at Dandan field

The semifinal games of the Budweiser King of the Diamonds featuring the Top 4 teams after four qualifying tournaments will be played this Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Dandan Ballfield.

27

Rays squeeze Phillies 4-2, tie World Series

Squeeze plays, a wacky checked swing and a fresh face out of the bullpen. These plucky Tampa Bay Rays pulled out all their tricks at Tropicana Field to tie the World Series.

24

MIGS dominates Aon Insurance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If the MIGS-AON Insurance tiff was a boxing bout, the former was the fighter armed with a lethal 1-2 punch and a solid jab knocking out a wobbling foe.

MIGS kept its record clean after a 106-83 demolition of AON Insurance in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Thursday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

The backcourt duo of Bonbon Cadagat and Sonny Lerio continued to work wonders for MIGS, while center/forward Kae Bernardo had another solid game to give the team its third win in as many games.

Cadagat fired 31 points against AON Insurance for his second straight 30-point plus production. He had 32 markers in their 113-83 rout of Diamond Auto Care.

Besides his impressive offensive game, the cat-quick and hot-shooting guard's playmaking skills and nose for the ball were notable as he dished out six assists and had five steals. Against Diamond Auto Care, Cadagat had 12 assists and six steals.

Lerio top-scored for MIGS with 33 points, making three triples and connecting on several daredevil drives causing

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MIGS point guard Bonbon Cadagat keeps the ball away from Aon Insurance forward Jon Lim in their game last Thursday in the 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League.

him to kiss the ground a couple of times.

As if Lerio and Cadagat's damage to AON's defense was not enough, Bernardo was there and played a good supporting role to MIGS' dynamic duo, posting another double-double.

Bernardo, who had 23 points and 12 rebounds against Diamond Auto Care last Saturday, was within his average against AON, nailing 18 points and grabbing 11 boards.

He held his ground against the match taller and heftier frontline of AON on the defensive end and used his quickness for another good offensive night.

The rest of the MIGS players watched Cadagat, Lerio, and Bernardo tore apart AON's bid for an upset.

Actually, AON was very much in the game in the first half, trailing by only five at halftime, 40-35.

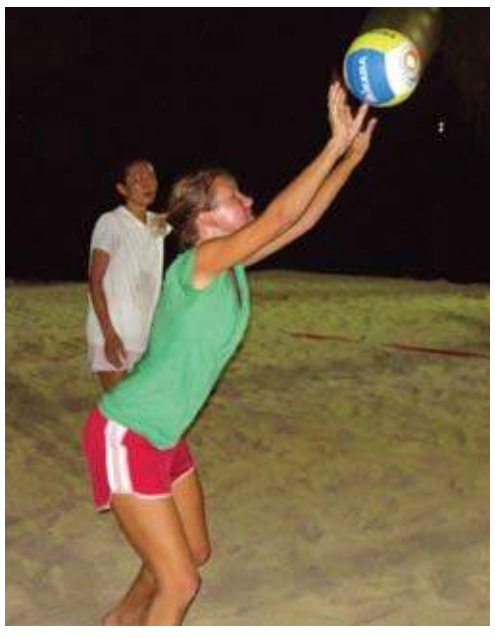
But after AON moved within three, 48-51, Lerio, Cadagat, and Bernardo anchored a 13-2 run midway in the third period to take a 64-50 advantage.

Lerio and Cadagat had 10 points apiece in MIGS' 36 points in the third quarter. Cadagat also made several feeds to his teammates with Bernardo mostly on the receiving end of his drop passes. Bernardo added nine points in the crucial third period.

Cadagat and the rest of the much smaller crew of MIGS played pressure, defense rattling AON's ball carriers and receivers. As it forced AON to commit errors, MIGS on many occa-

See MIGS on Page 27

Acme improves to 8-0, Peers, Enyophace win



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Enyophace's Melody Watson makes the winning return in her team's 21-11, 21-14, 21-6 win over Champ On last Thursday night in the Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball at the PIC sand court.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Who can stop Acme Roofing from its winning rampage?

The team picked up three more wins three days in a row to stretch its winning run to 8-0 and solidify its lead in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Island Club sand court.

Powered by Larry Sheri, J.R. Ngesekei, Luthor Taylor, Jazz Roskow, Rob Jordan, Dana McFadden, Elzabeth Hence, and Jenni Brown, Acme Roofing won over Kimoichi, 21-12, 21-10, 18-21, on Thursday night to maintain its unblemished record. It also won over Off Twice on Tuesday and against Karakuchi on Wednesday.

With the loss Kimochi went down to eighth overall with its 4-4 win-loss mark.

There are just two more teams standing on Acme Roofing's way to an undefeated regular season.

It will meet MHS Serves Up on Nov. 4, an easy game barring any major disaster, as the former remains winless

See ACME on Page 27

'The Crank' wins medals in New Jersey

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan-trained and native son Frank "The Crank" Camacho won gold and bronze medals in the United States this past weekend, according to an email from Trench Tech Inc. president Justis "Cuki" Alvarez.

The Trench Tech MMA fighter won the gold in the Gi Division of the Grapples' Quest last Saturday in New Jersey.

Alvarez said over 300 grapplers from across the U.S. mainland as well as from around the world participated in the event.

The fighters competed in the Gi and No Gi divisions and were classified in intermediate and absolute levels of competitions.

Camacho entered in the intermediate level in both classes taking home the gold in the Gi division and bronze in the No Gi division.

"Our hats are off to our young island ambassador. Frank, you make us all proud of your accomplishments and for that we salute you," Alvarez said in his congratulatory message to Camacho.

"The Crank" will be returning home for the Christmas holidays and will fight in the main event of the upcoming Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation.

He will be up against Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregoyo in a K1 match. The event will be held on Dec. 12 at the Saipan World Resort.

Teregoyo is a standout from Marianas Elite and the current top contender in the welterweight division.

The semi main event will also feature two out-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho shows off the gold medal he won in the Gi Division of Grapples' Quest last Saturday in New Jersey.

See THE CRANK on Page 27

Total Sports Experience this weekend

Get ready for an exciting family sporting event tomorrow as Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. will hold its "Total Sports Experience" event at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Held in collaboration with Foremost Foods Saipan, Subway, Sorensen Media Group, All-Star Sporting Goods, and Boarderline, the one-day affair will involve activities in basketball, volleyball, and badminton from 9am to 5pm at the Oleai Sports Complex venue.

"Get ready for an island-wide, sports-filled day of fun, games and prizes. Admission is free—come out, play and interact with local sports organizations on Saipan," according to organizers of the event. "We are inviting the public to challenge themselves and try a sport they may not have ever tried."

At the Coca-Cola Total Sports Experience, everyone can try out one or all of the clinics to be run by the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Northern Marianas Badminton Federation,

See TOTAL on Page 27